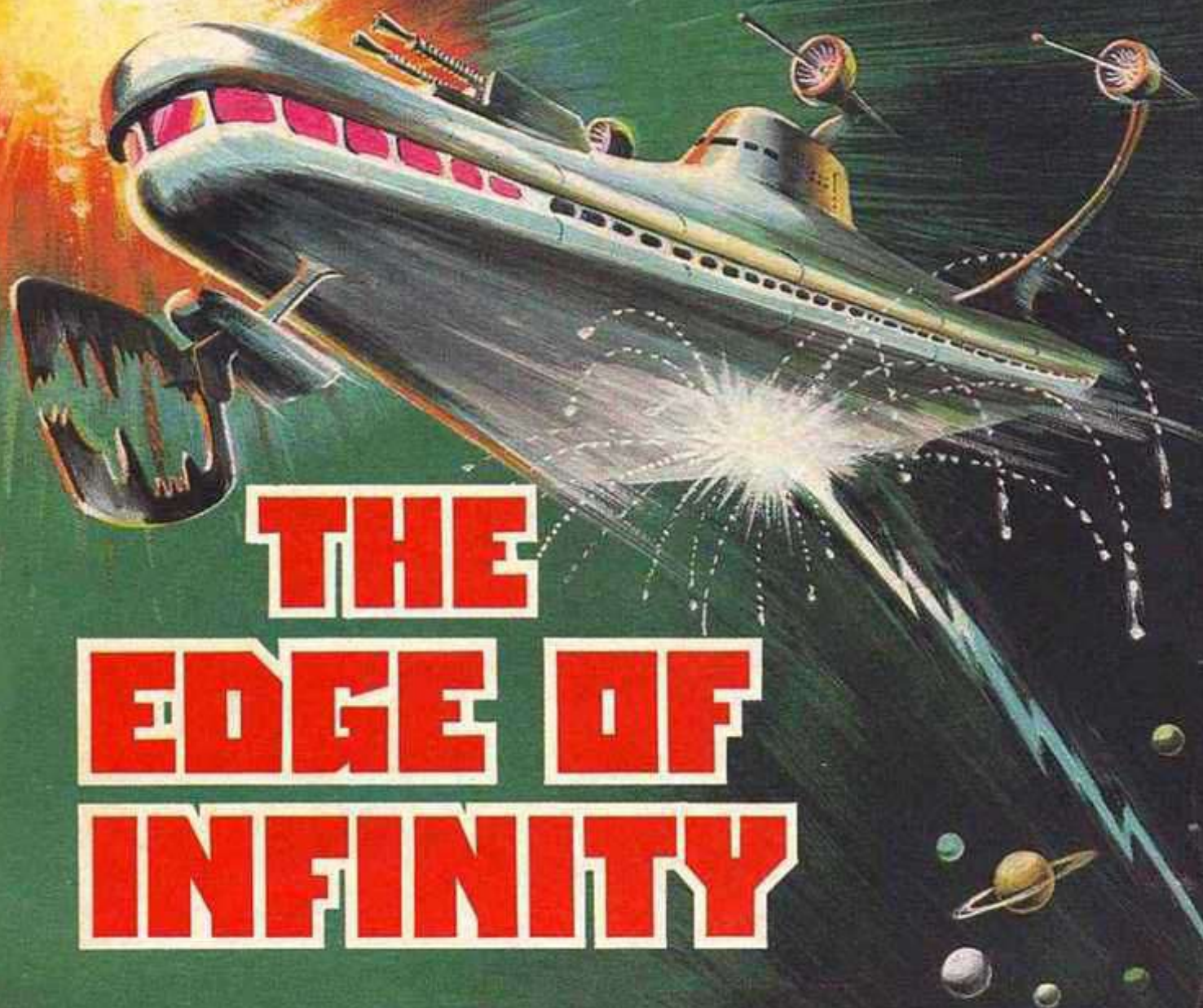


STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.4

12p

AUS 40c NZ



THE EDGE OF INFINITY

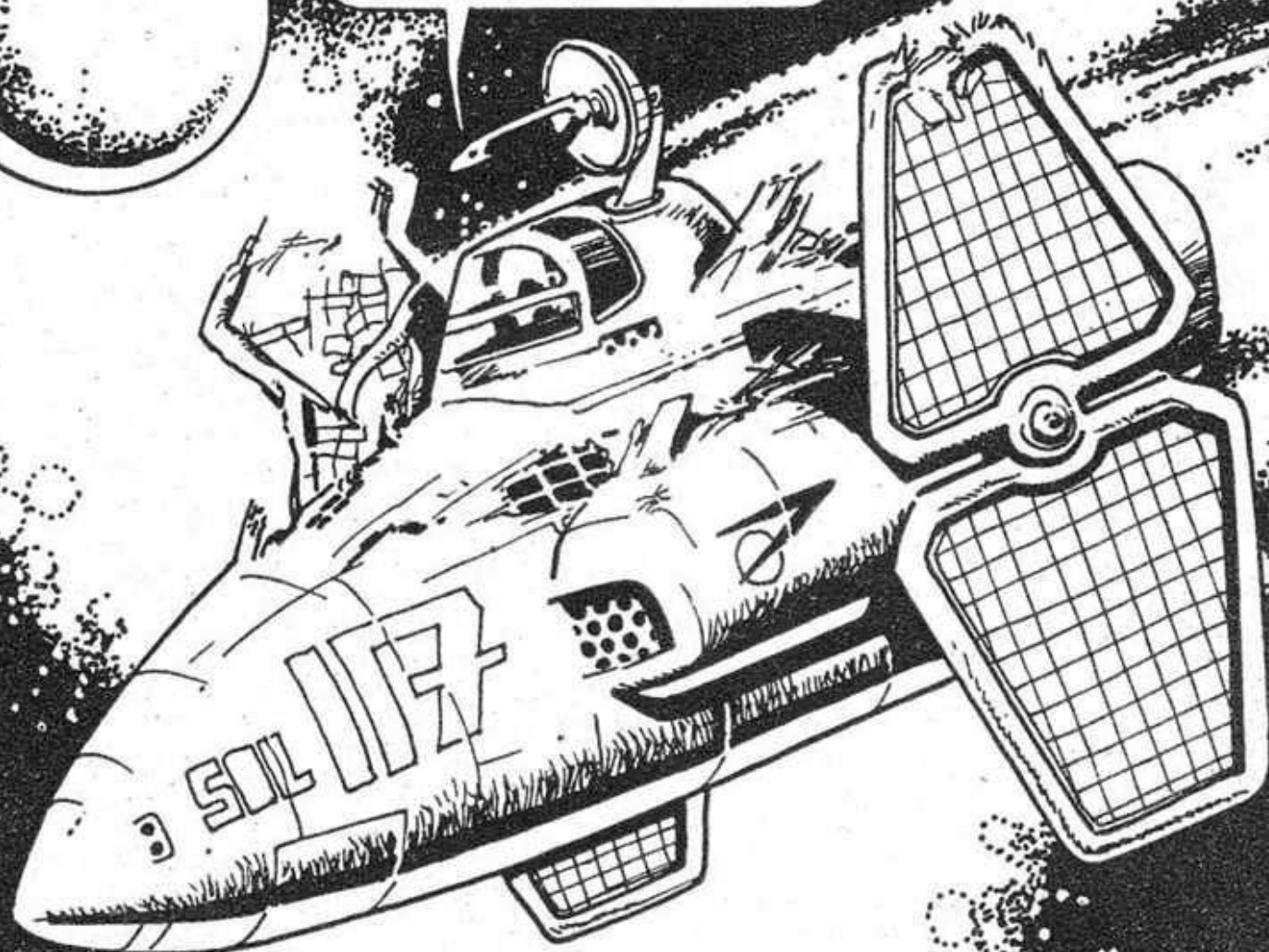
STARBLAZER



With the Galactic Union of Earth desperately short of fuel, survey vessels were sent out to locate new sources. That was when the Barrier was discovered—an impenetrable forcefield millions of miles from Earth on the Galactic Rim. No one knew why it was there, or who had put it there. All that Earth's computers knew was that a planet called Fratri contained an almost inexhaustable fuel source . . . and it was on the other side of the Barrier—on The Edge of Infinity.

THE EDGE OF INFINITY

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! SURVEY TWO...
REQUEST AUTOMATIC LANDING
BEAM... GRADE A EMERGENCY.



A GALACTIC UNION SURVEY VESSEL
LIMPED TOWARDS MARS.

4
ON MARS, THE TRACKING BEAMS LOCKED
FAST ON THE CRIPPLED CRAFT.

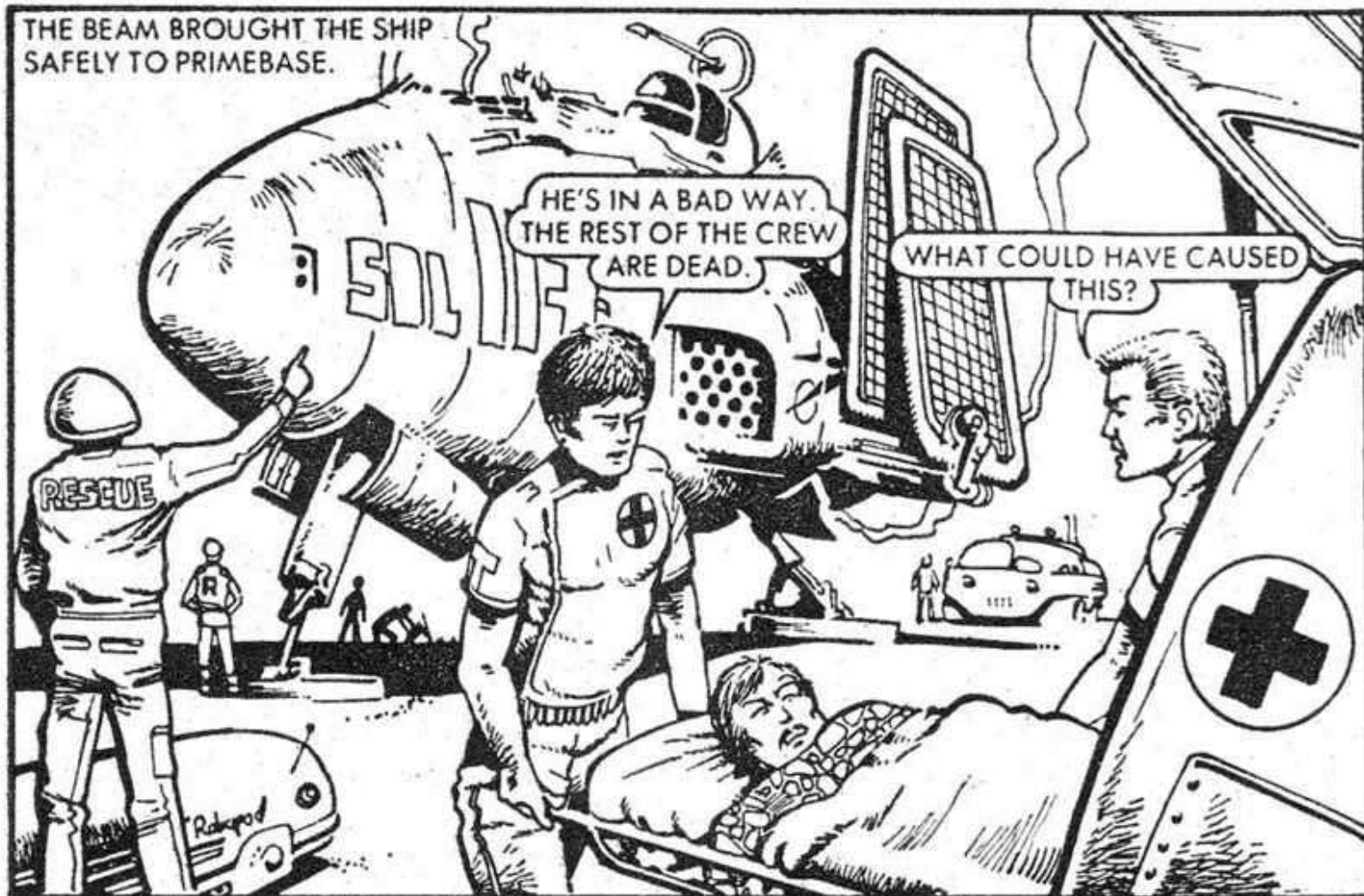
MESSAGE RECEIVED
... WE HAVE
ENERGISED
LANDING BEAM
... PLEASE
SWITCH TO
AUTOMATIC.

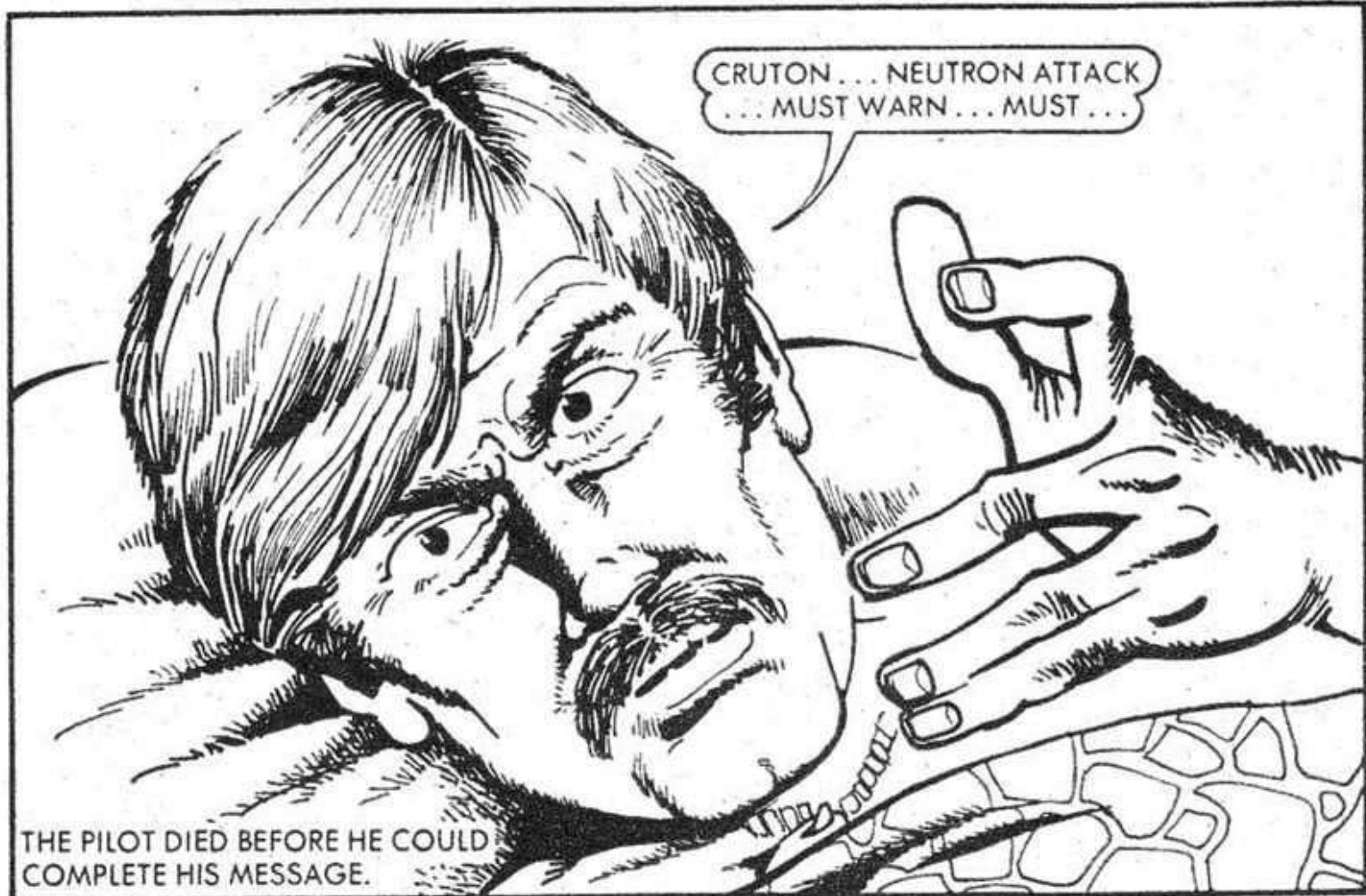


THE BEAM BROUGHT THE SHIP
SAFELY TO PRIMEBASE.

HE'S IN A BAD WAY.
THE REST OF THE CREW
ARE DEAD.

WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED
THIS?





THE PILOT DIED BEFORE HE COULD
COMPLETE HIS MESSAGE.

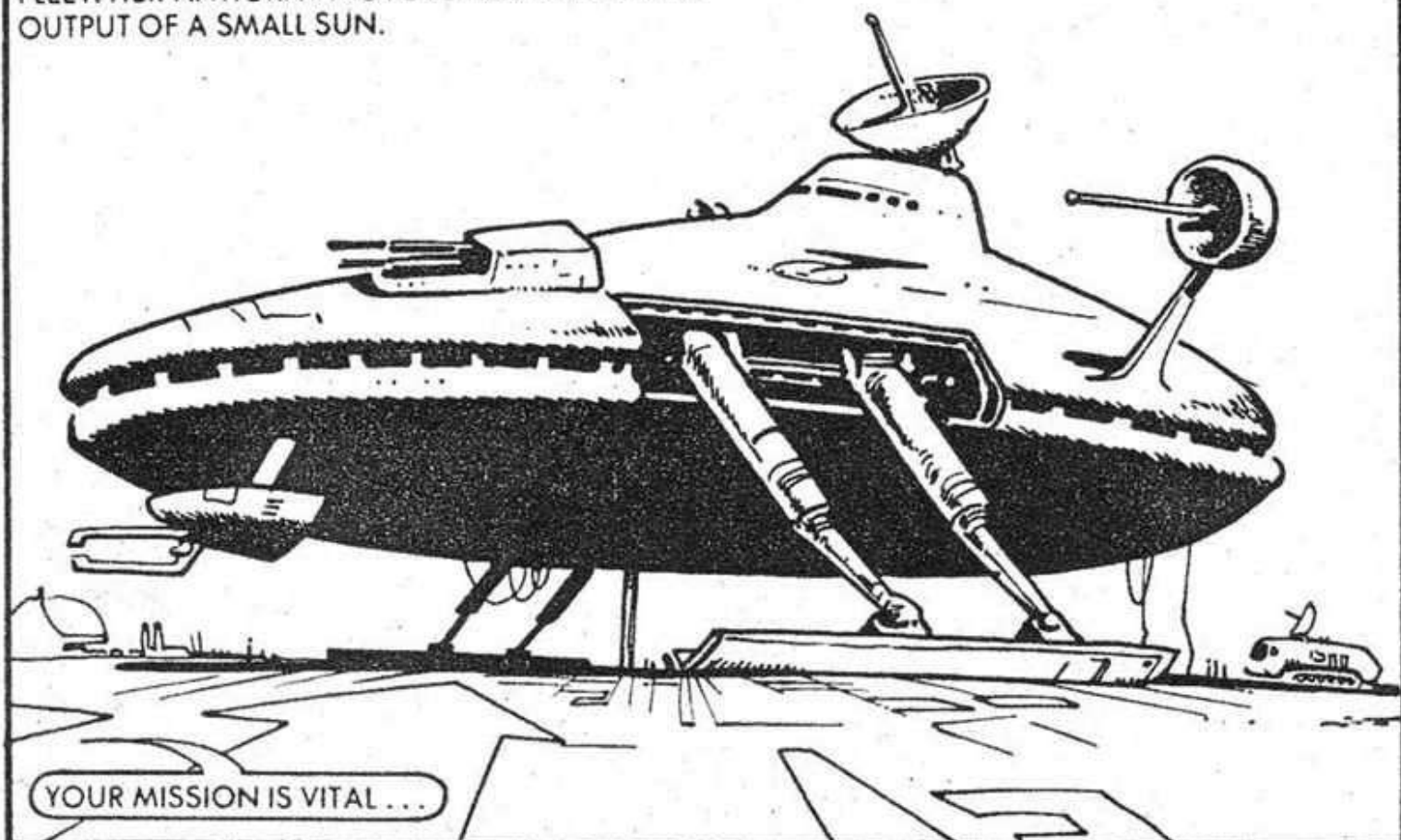


THE PRIMEBASE COMMANDER IMMEDIATELY SUMMONED HIS TOP SPACECRAFT CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN JORGON LYX, WE ARE GIVING YOU
COMMAND OF THE FLEET'S LATEST VESSEL,
SEEKER. SHE IS FITTED WITH ANTIGRAV MOTORS
AND AN ANTI-MATTER PROJECTOR.

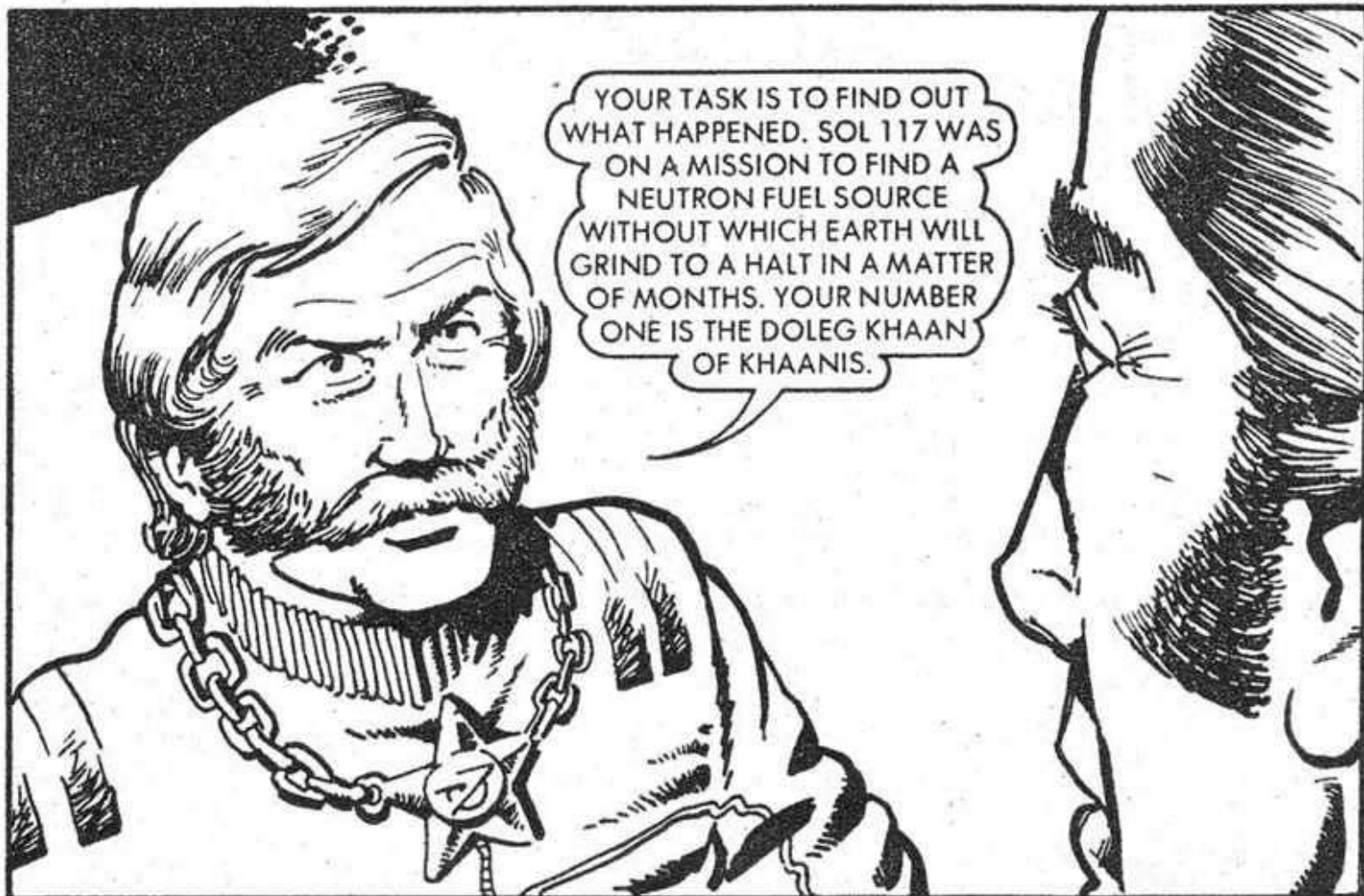
I AM PROUD TO ACCEPT
COMMAND, COMMANDER.

SEEKER, SUPERVESSEL OF THE GALACTIC UNION FLEET. HER ANTIGRAV MOTORS HAD THE POWER OUTPUT OF A SMALL SUN.



... SOL 117's TAPES SHOW THAT SHE WAS DAMAGED BY A BURST OF NEUTRON ENERGY BIGGER THAN ANYTHING WE COULD MUSTER... AND THE BLAST CAME FROM BEYOND THE BARRIER.

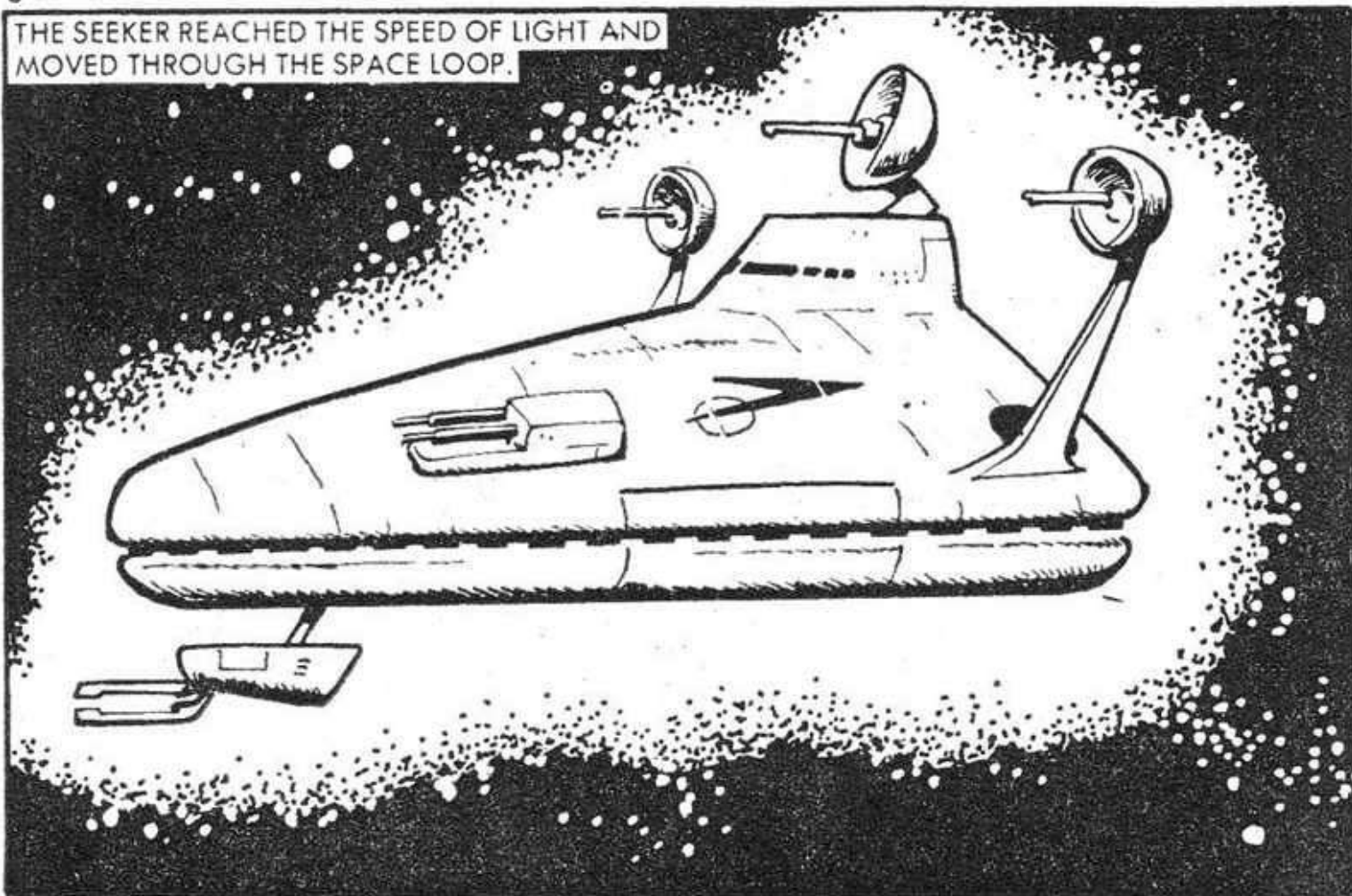




LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER JORGON PUT THE SHIP INTO ITS BLAST-OFF SEQUENCE.



THE SEEKER REACHED THE SPEED OF LIGHT AND
MOVED THROUGH THE SPACE LOOP.



WE ARE APPROACHING THE BARRIER. RUN UP
THE DEFENCE SCREENS. IT IS HERE THAT SOL 117
WAS ATTACKED LIKE THESE OTHER DERELICT
SHIPS. WHY?

IT IS ONE OF SPACE'S MYSTERIES.
WE KNOW THAT THE PLANETS
BEYOND THE BARRIER ARE
PEACEFUL... SO WHO WOULD
ATTACK GALACTIC UNION SHIPS.



9
A SEARING BLAST OF ANTI-MATTER ENERGY
FROM SEEKER CUT INTO THE FORCE BARRIER.

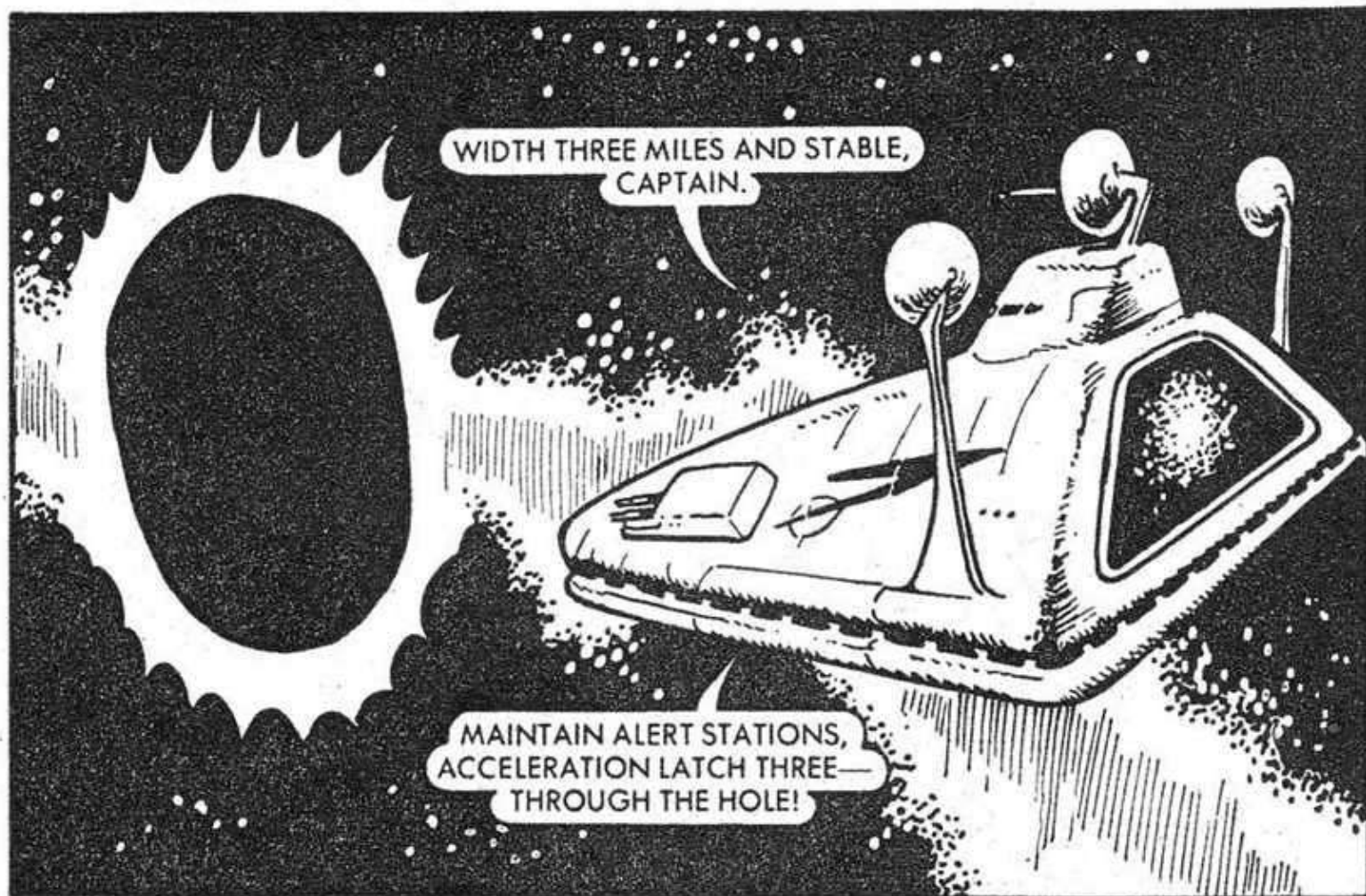


I HOPE THIS WORKS! IF WE
CAN'T FIND A WAY
THROUGH WITH THIS
ANTI-MATTER BEAM, THEN
EARTH IS DOOMED.



SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING, SKIPPER.

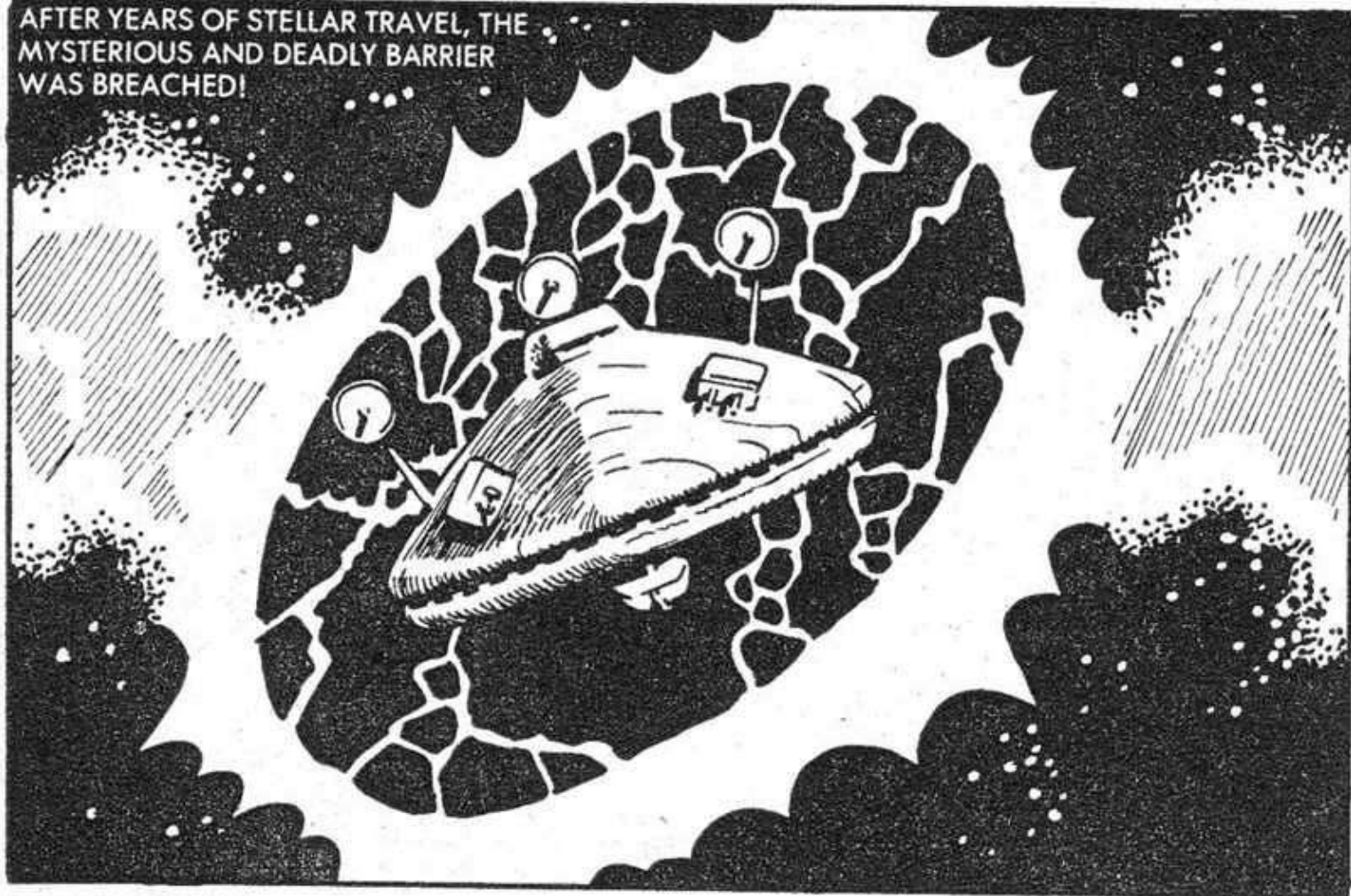
THE BARRIER'S
OPENING! CEASE
PROJECTION. REPORT,
MR KHAAN.



WIDTH THREE MILES AND STABLE,
CAPTAIN.

MAINTAIN ALERT STATIONS,
ACCELERATION LATCH THREE—
THROUGH THE HOLE!

AFTER YEARS OF STELLAR TRAVEL, THE MYSTERIOUS AND DEADLY BARRIER WAS BREACHED!

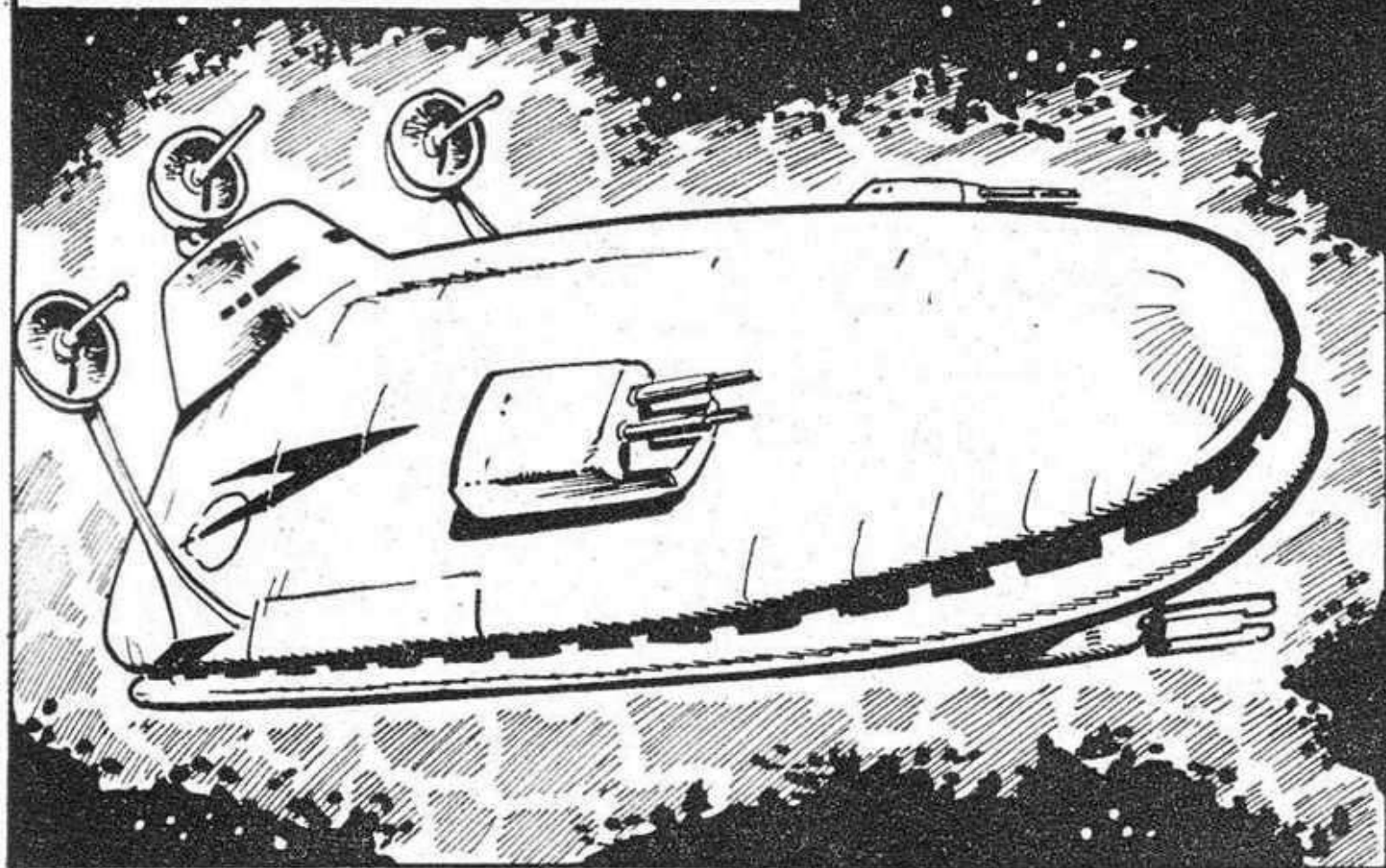


CAPTAIN! LOOK AT THIS! ALL READINGS ARE NOW NEGATIVE. EVERYTHING IS ELECTRICALLY REVERSED.

WE HAVE ENTERED STRANGE SPACE, MR KHAAN.



SUDDENLY SEEKER WAS BLASTED BY A VIOLENT FORCE.



INTENSE NEUTRON ATTACK, CAPTAIN.
ALIEN SHIP ON THE STARBOARD
QUARTER.



RUN STANDARD
IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL.
ALL STATIONS AWAIT MY
ORDER.

A HORRIBLE FACE APPEARED ON THE VID-SCREEN.

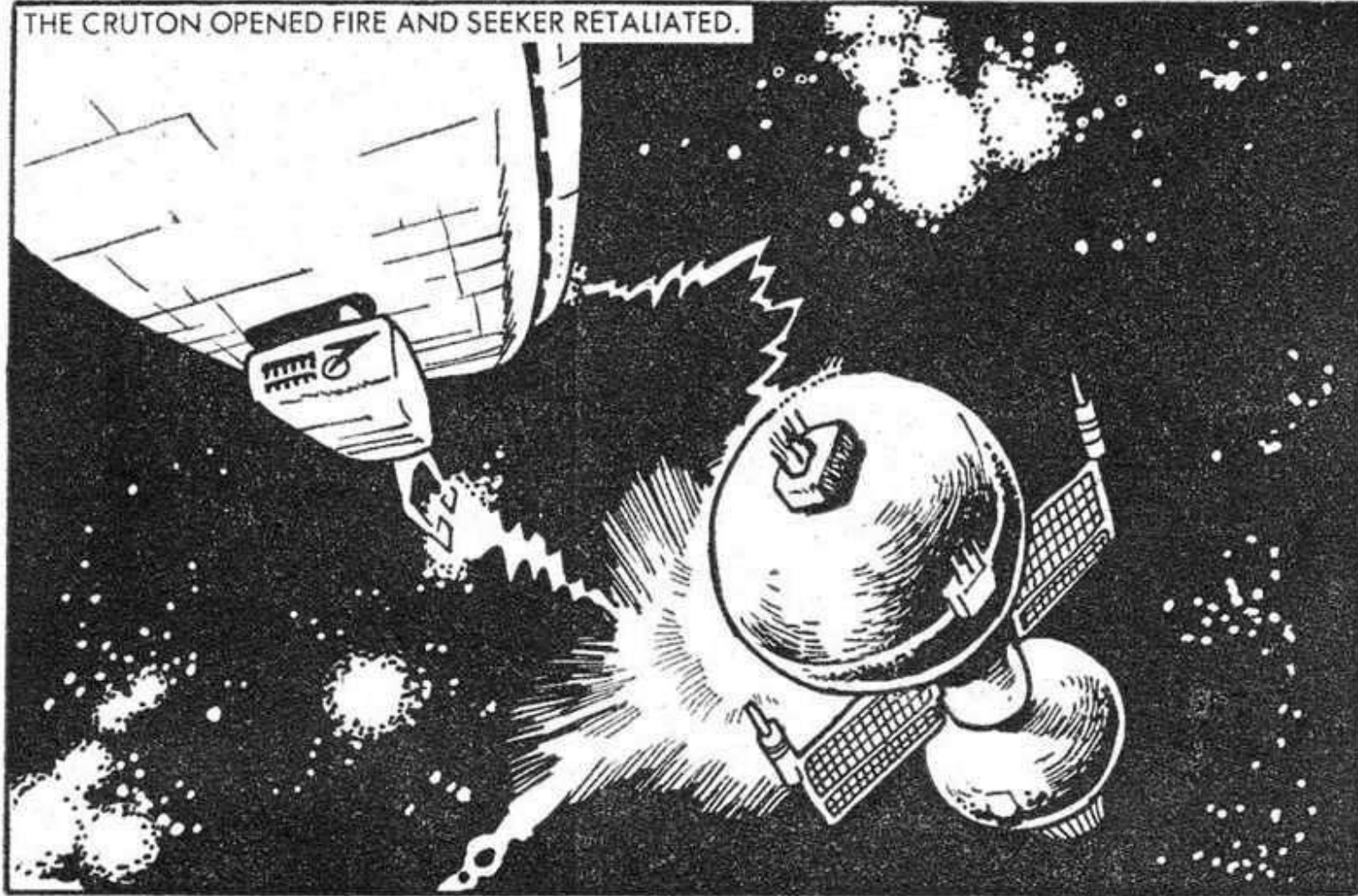
IDENTIFY YOURSELF,
ALIEN.

YOU ARE VIOLATING CRUTON
SPACE. SURRENDER OR YOU WILL
BE DESTROYED.

SOL 117'S PILOT SPOKE OF
'CRUTON' BEFORE HE DIED.
IF THESE ALIENS ATTACKED
HIM THEY MUST BE ABLE TO
PENETRATE THE BARRIER.

WE ARE HERE TO FIND A
NEUTRON SOURCE
PEACEFULLY... NOT TO
FIGHT BUT IF YOU THINK
YOU'RE GOING TO
DESTROY US WITHOUT
A FIGHT—YOU'RE
WRONG.

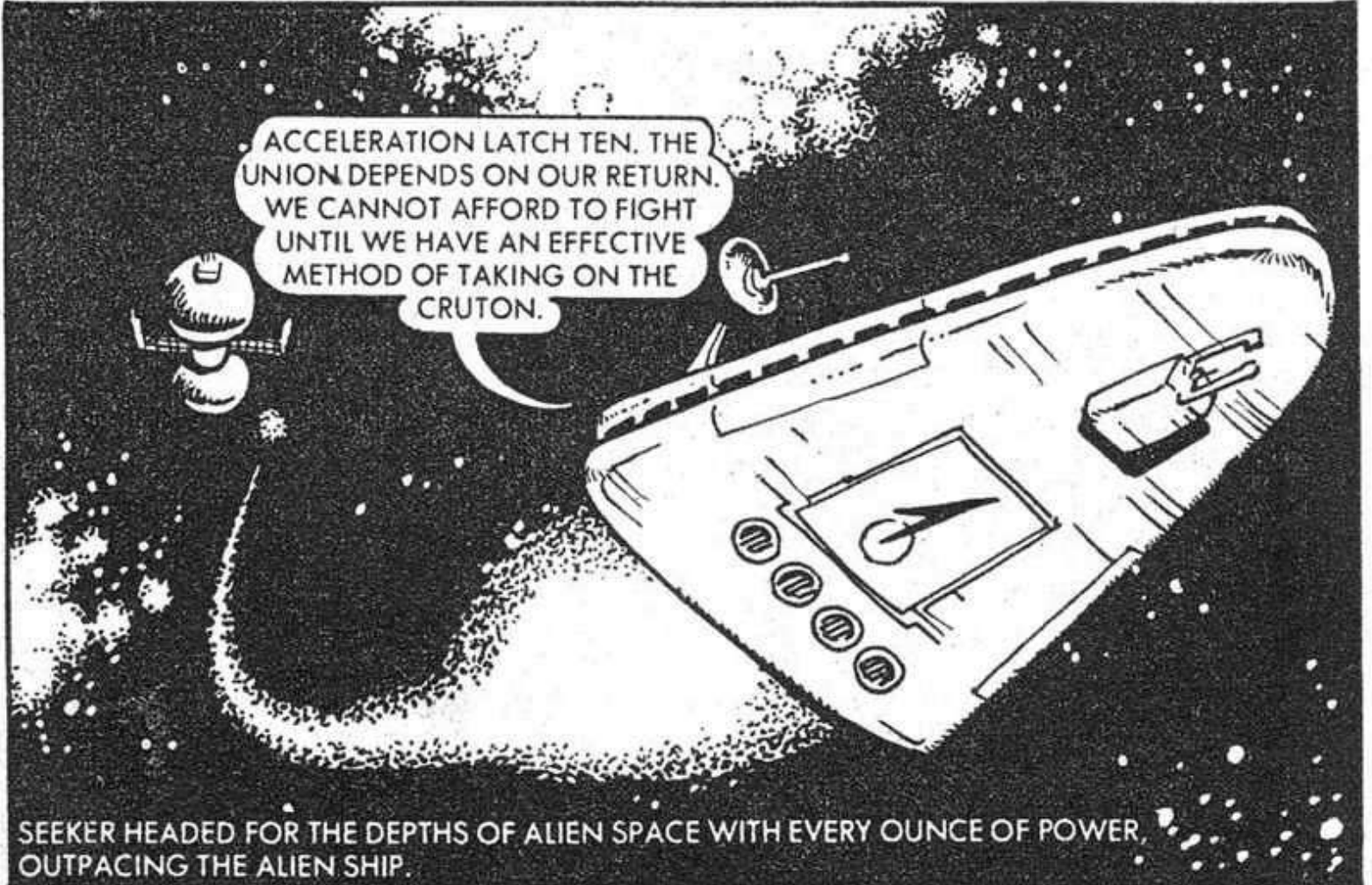
THE CRUTON OPENED FIRE AND SEEKER RETALIATED.



OUR WEAPON HAS NO EFFECT. THEY LASH US WITH ALL THEY HAVE AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

THE OUTER SCREEN'S GONE. NUMBER TWO IS UNSTABLE. THE HULL IS OVERHEATING!






ACCELERATION LATCH TEN. THE UNION DEPENDS ON OUR RETURN. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FIGHT UNTIL WE HAVE AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF TAKING ON THE CRUTON.

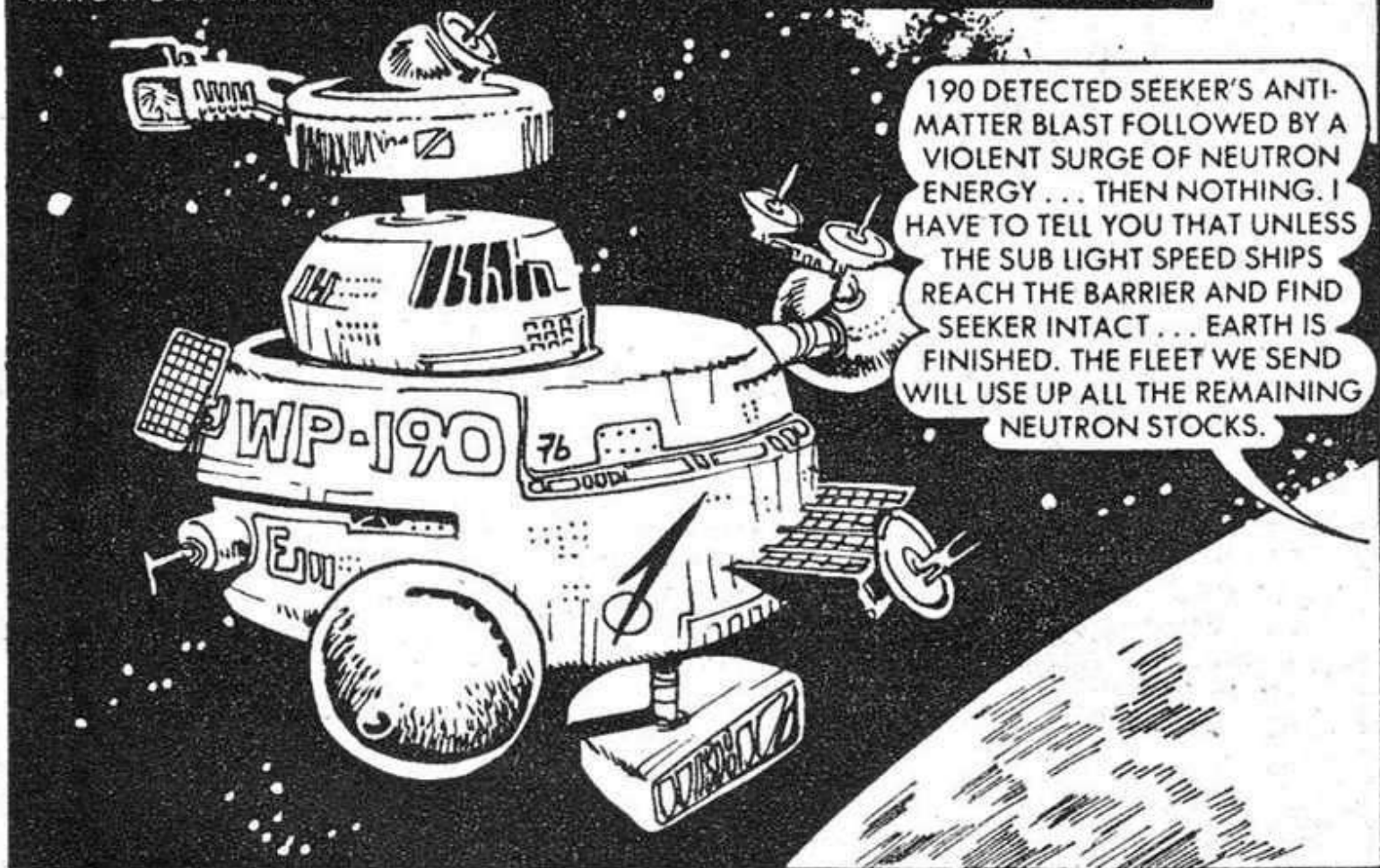
SEEKER HEADED FOR THE DEPTHS OF ALIEN SPACE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF POWER, OUTPACING THE ALIEN SHIP.

AT MARS PRIMEBASE A CONFERENCE WAS IN PROGRESS.

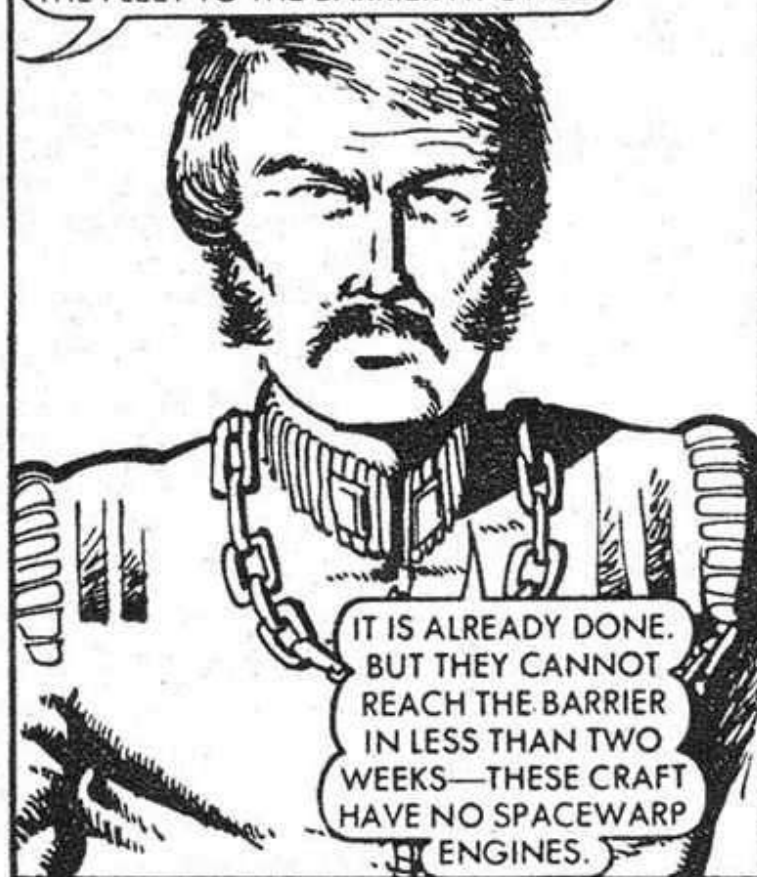


GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE LOST TRACK OF SEEKER!

WATCHPOST 190 WAS THE UNION'S EAGLE EYE AT THE EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.



IF SEEKER HAS FAILED WE ARE DOOMED ANYWAY. WE MUST SEND THE FLEET TO THE BARRIER AT ONCE.



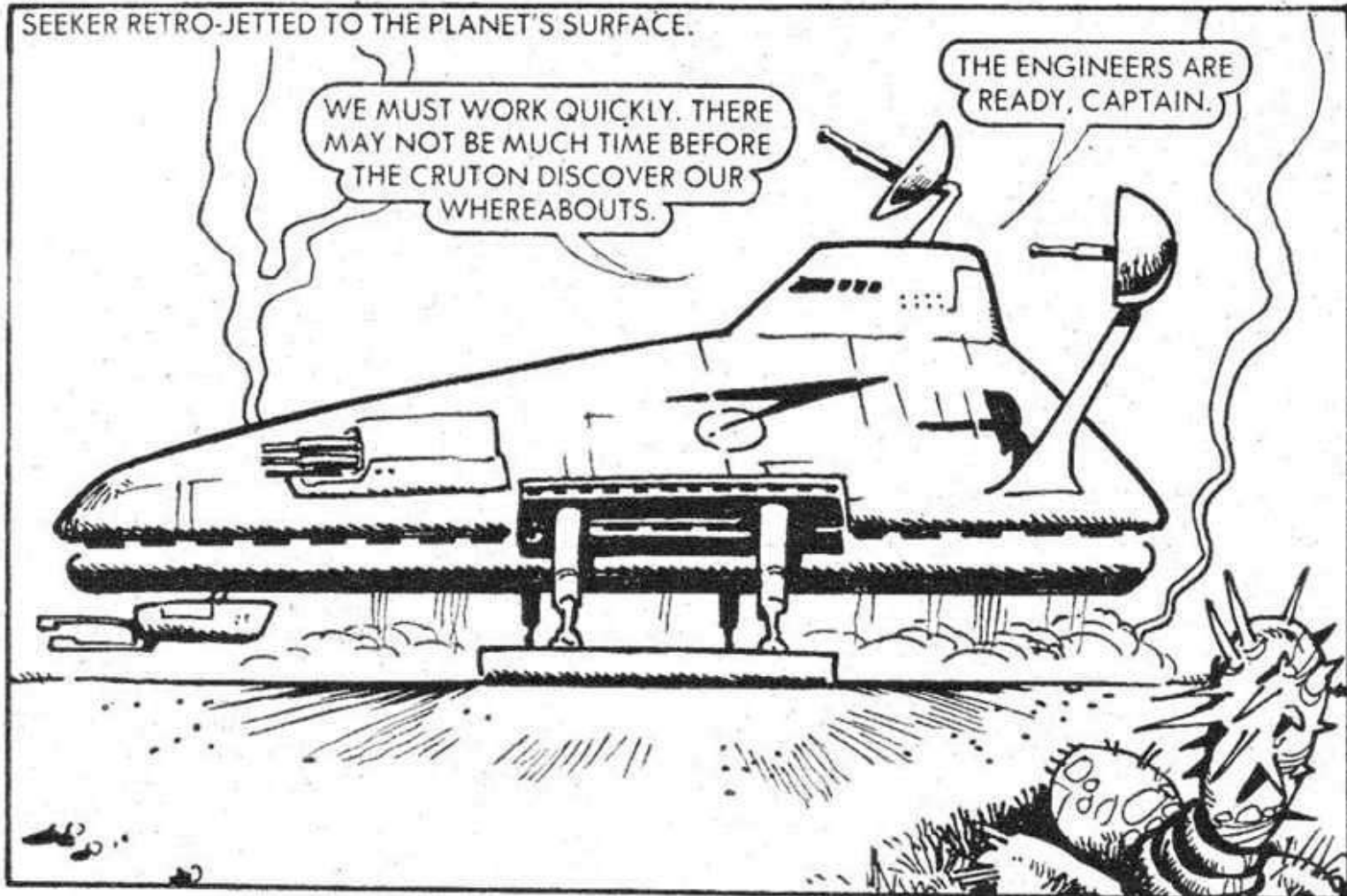
TWO WEEK'S JOURNEY AWAY...



SEEKER RETRO-JETTED TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE.

WE MUST WORK QUICKLY. THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE CRUTON DISCOVER OUR WHEREABOUTS.

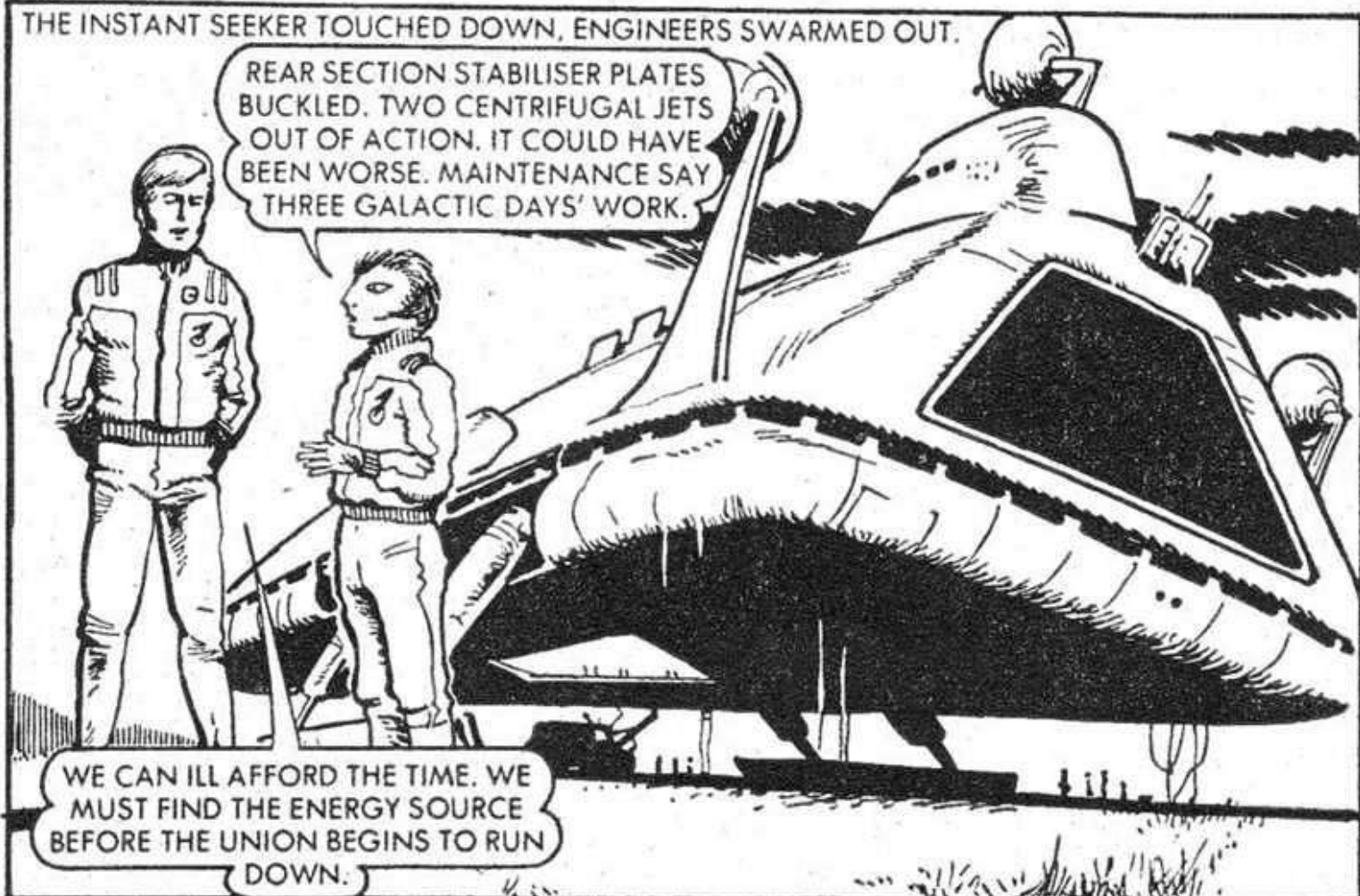
THE ENGINEERS ARE READY, CAPTAIN.

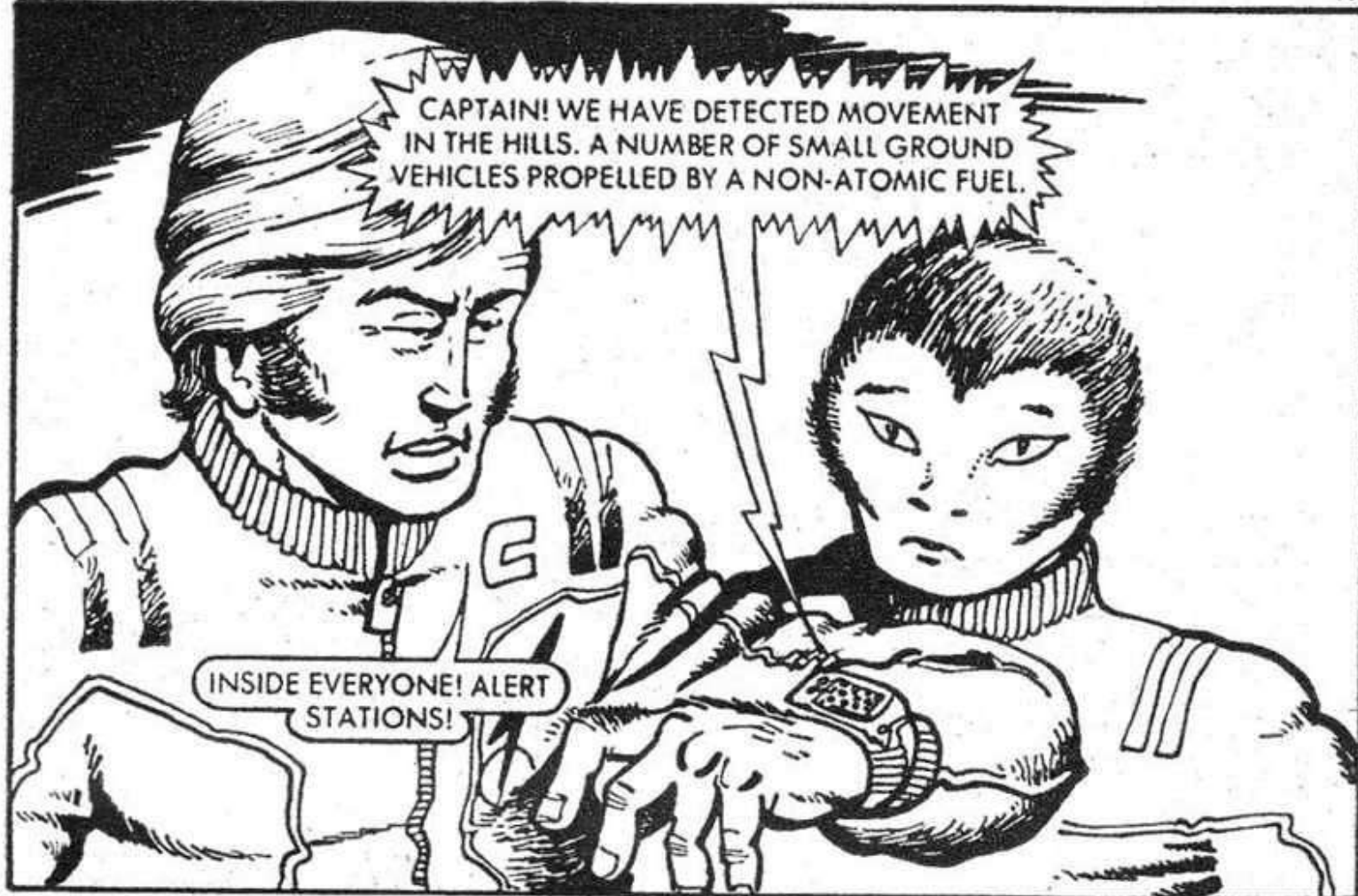


THE INSTANT SEEKER TOUCHED DOWN, ENGINEERS SWARMED OUT.

REAR SECTION STABILISER PLATES BUCKLED. TWO CENTRIFUGAL JETS OUT OF ACTION. IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. MAINTENANCE SAY THREE GALACTIC DAYS' WORK.

WE CAN ILL AFFORD THE TIME. WE MUST FIND THE ENERGY SOURCE BEFORE THE UNION BEGINS TO RUN DOWN.





A TRIO OF STRANGELY DRESSED ALIENS DULY ARRIVED.

IDENTIFY YOURSELVES.

PEACE TO YOU. WE ARE
FRATRI. WHAT DO YOU WISH
OF US?

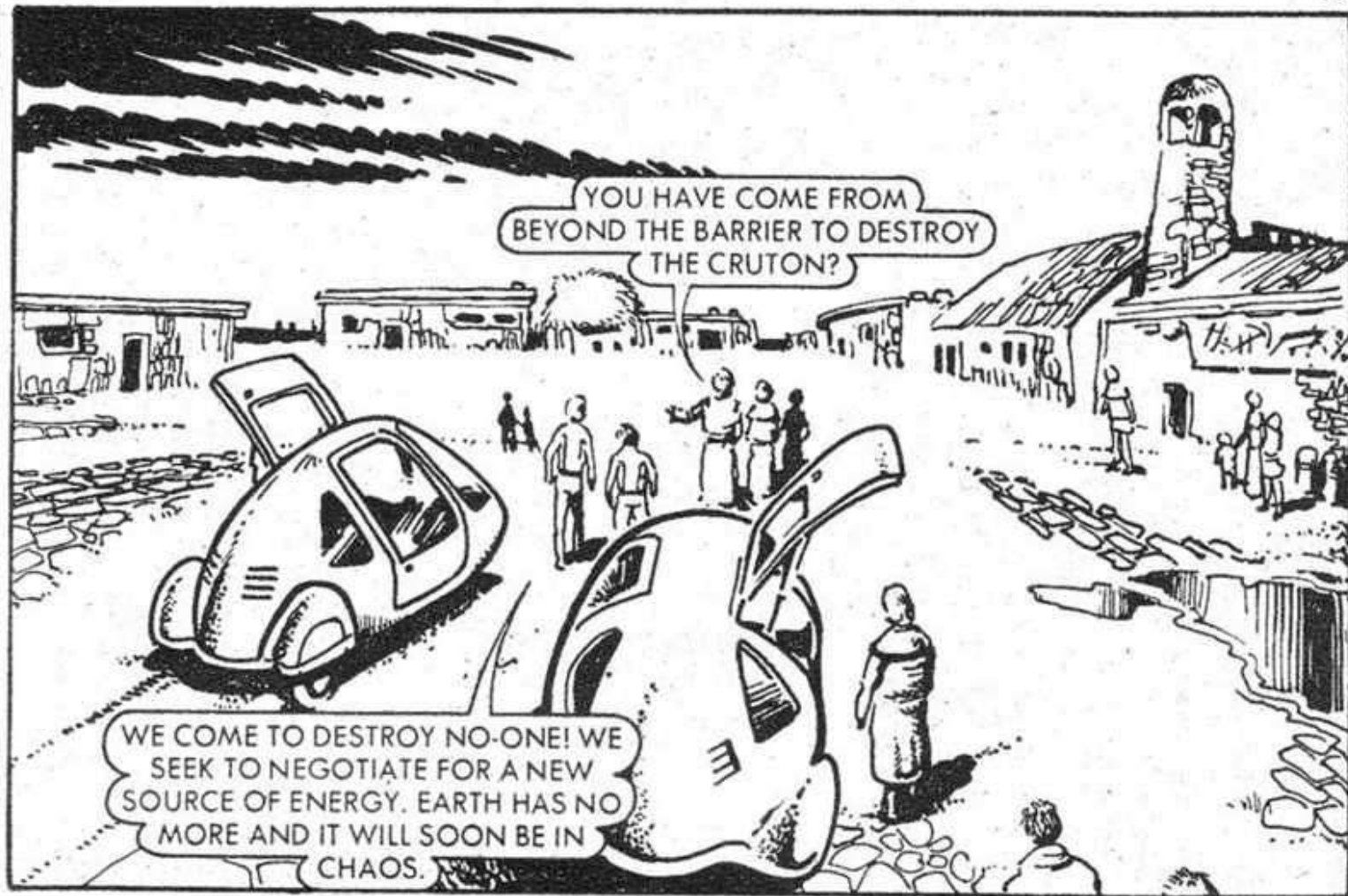
WE WISH ONLY THE SANCTUARY
OF YOUR PLANET FOR A SHORT TIME.

ONLY THE PURSUED
SEEK SANCTUARY. BY
WHOM ARE YOU
PURSUED?

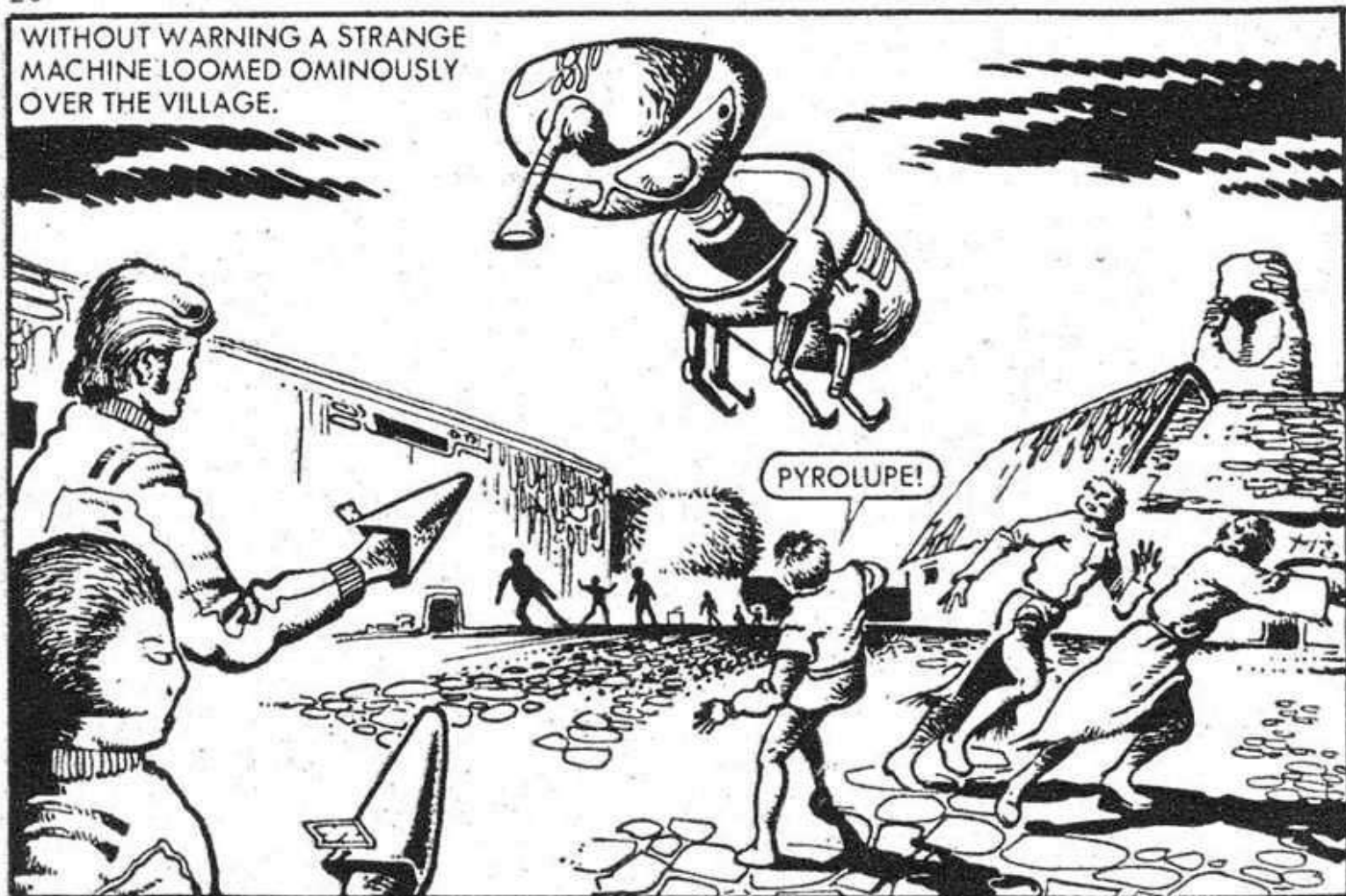
fridae

DO YOU KNOW OF THE CRUTON? THEY
HAVE DAMAGED OUR VESSEL. WE WISH TO
MAKE REPAIRS.

IF YOU ARE ENEMIES OF THE CRUTON,
THEN YOU ARE FRIENDS OF THE FRATRI.
THEY ARE THE SCOURGE OF OUR RACE.
THEY TAKE ALL AND GIVE NOTHING BUT
DEATH. THEIR NATURE IS TO CONQUER.
COME WITH US, IF YOU WISH TO SEE
HOW WE ARE THEIR SLAVES.

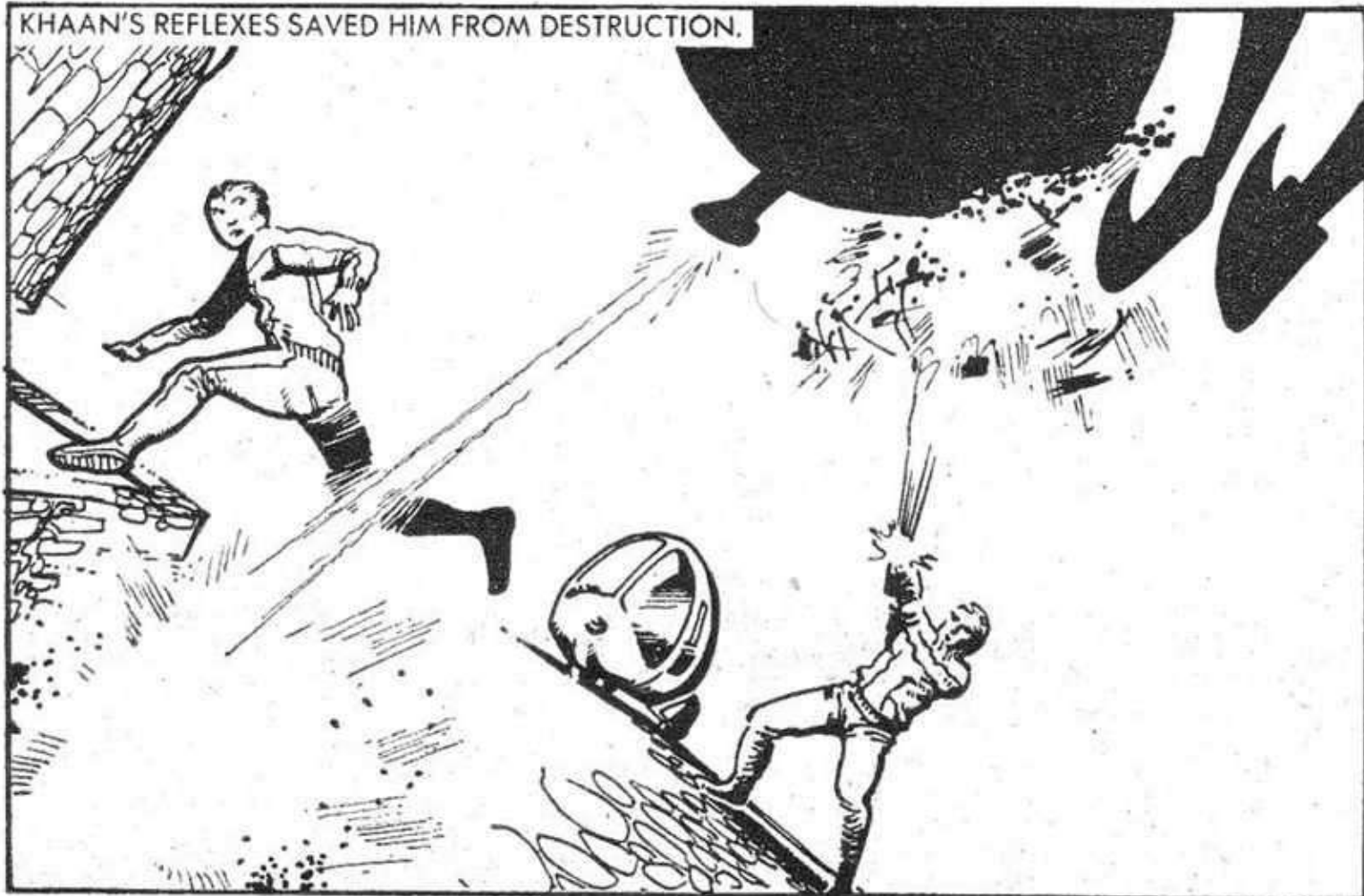


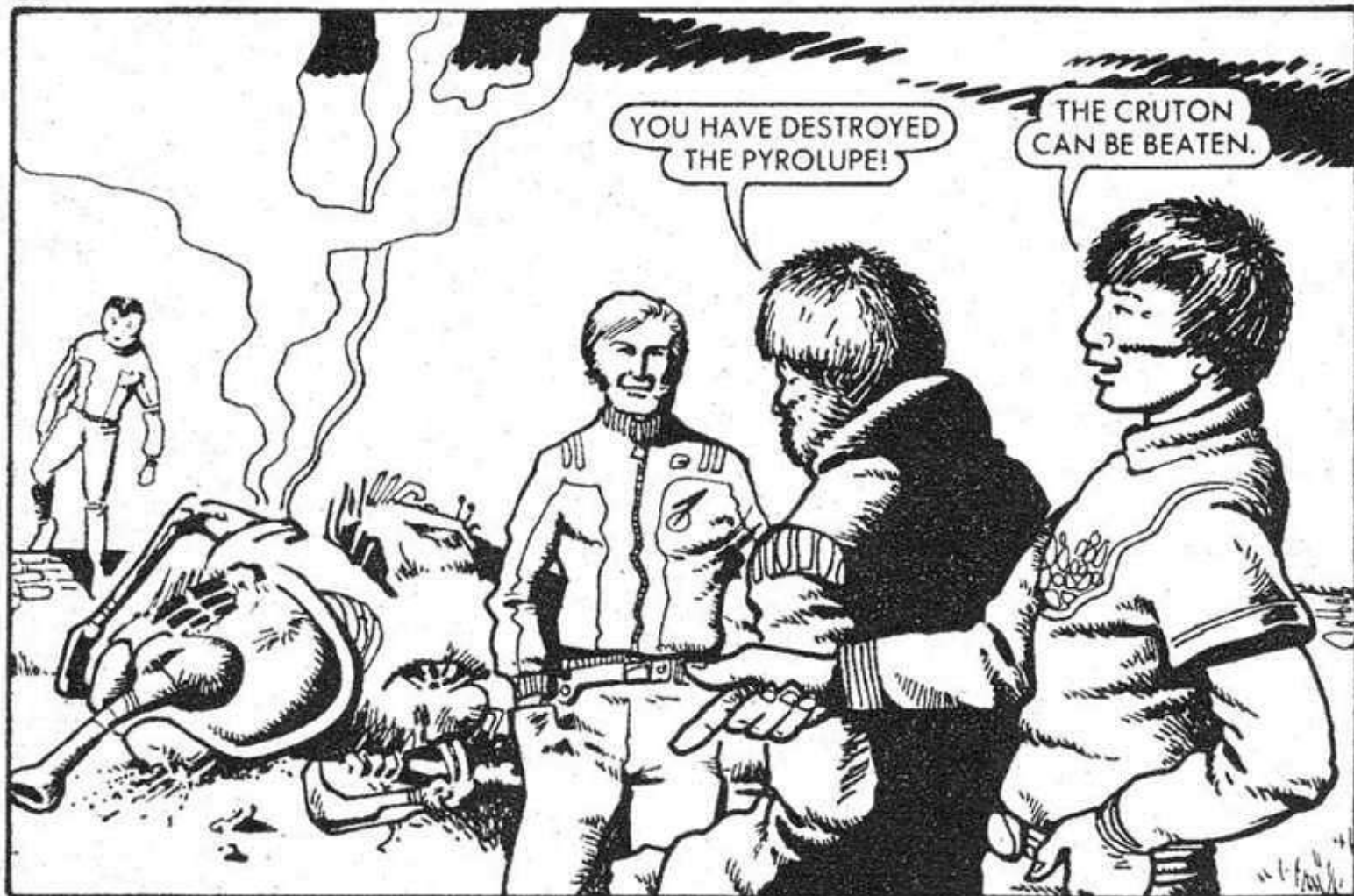
WITHOUT WARNING A STRANGE MACHINE LOOMED OMINOUSLY OVER THE VILLAGE.





KHAAN'S REFLEXES SAVED HIM FROM DESTRUCTION.



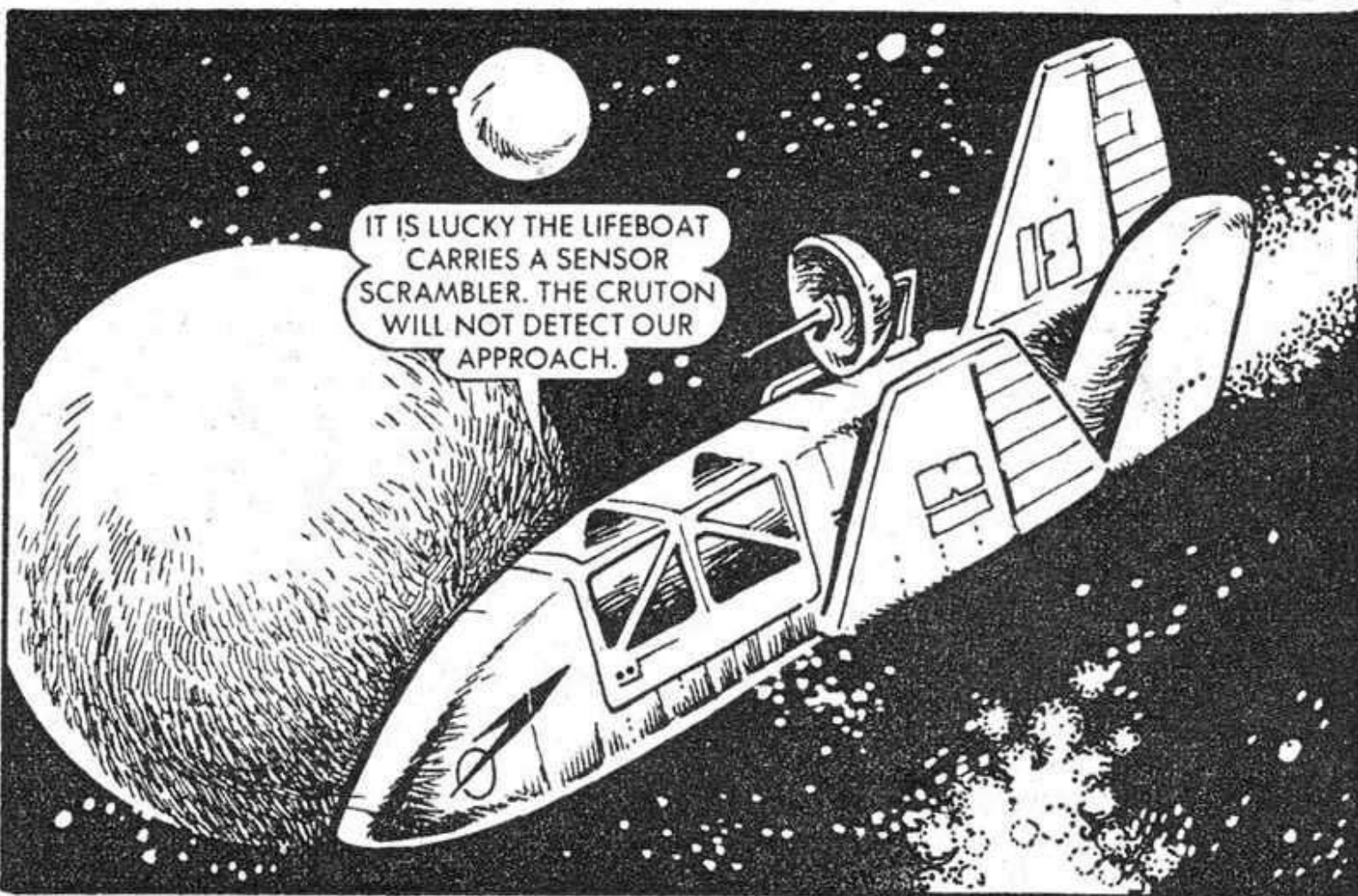


LATER, ON BOARD SEEKER.





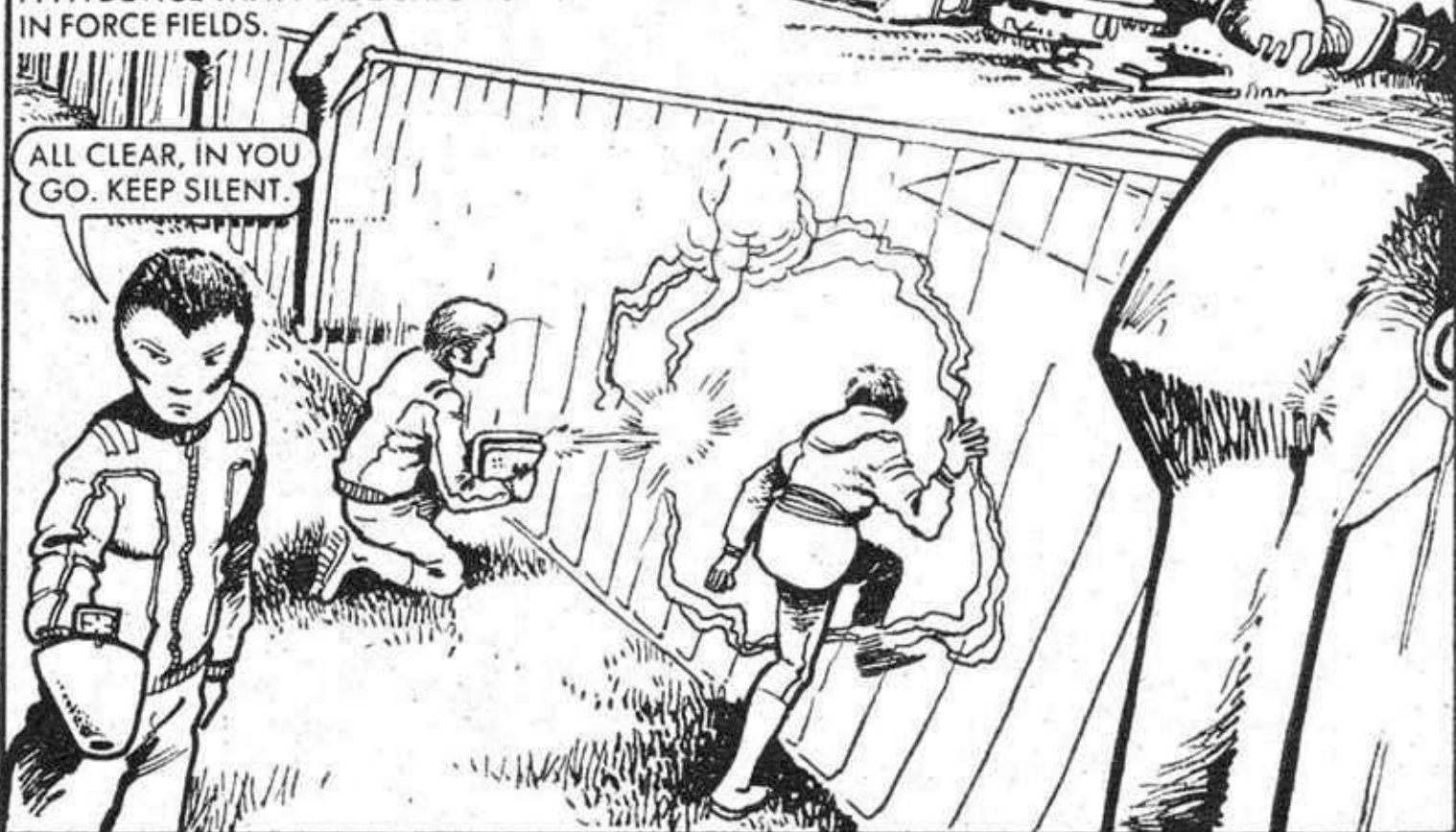
LYX, KHAAN AND MONCAP HEADED FOR CRUTA IN ONE OF SEEKER'S LIFEBOATS.



JORGON SLID PAST THE CRUTON SENSORS AND LANDED.



JORGON STARTED CUTTING THROUGH THE LASER FENCE WITH THE LASER NEUTRALISER ... A DEVICE THAT MADE SAFE HOLES IN FORCE FIELDS.



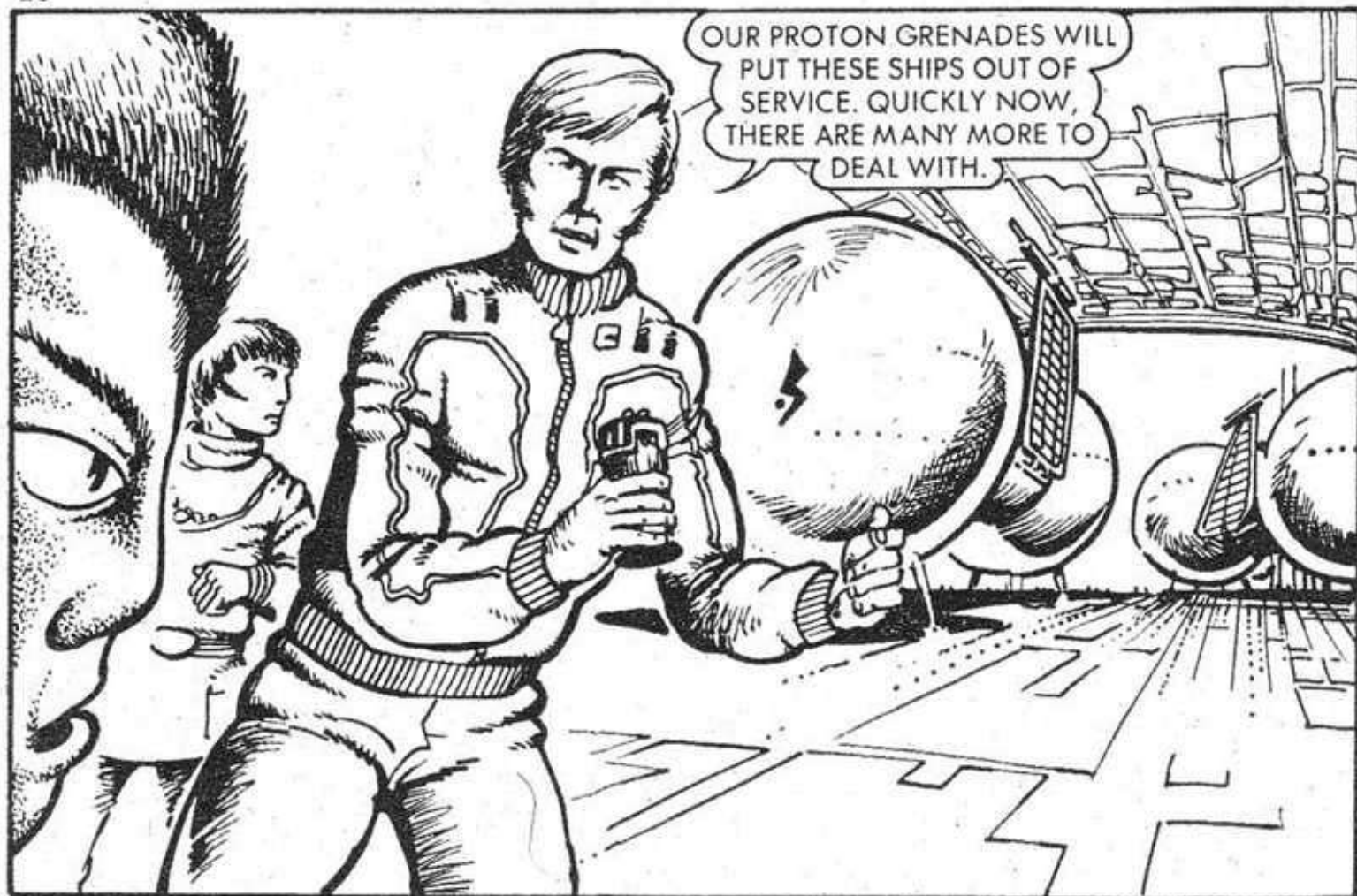
THE TRIO REACHED THE SPACEFLEET H.Q. UNDETECTED.

GUARD THESE SHIPS WELL. THEY WILL BE NEEDED WHEN THE FLEET IS ORDERED THROUGH THE BARRIER.

WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY, MAKE A HOLE IN THE ROOF.

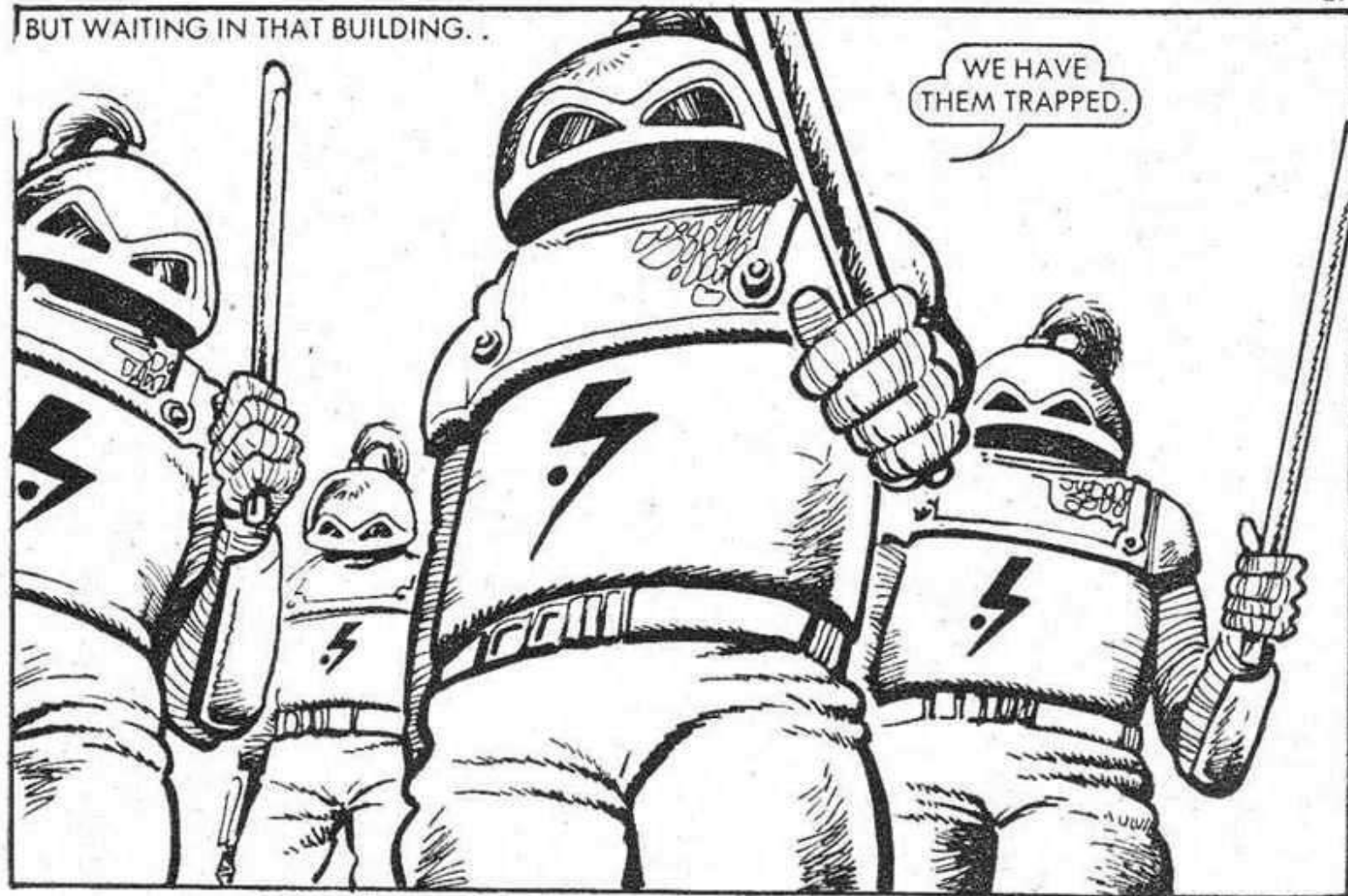
THE GUARD WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

THAT'S ONE FOR THE FRATRI, ANIMAL!



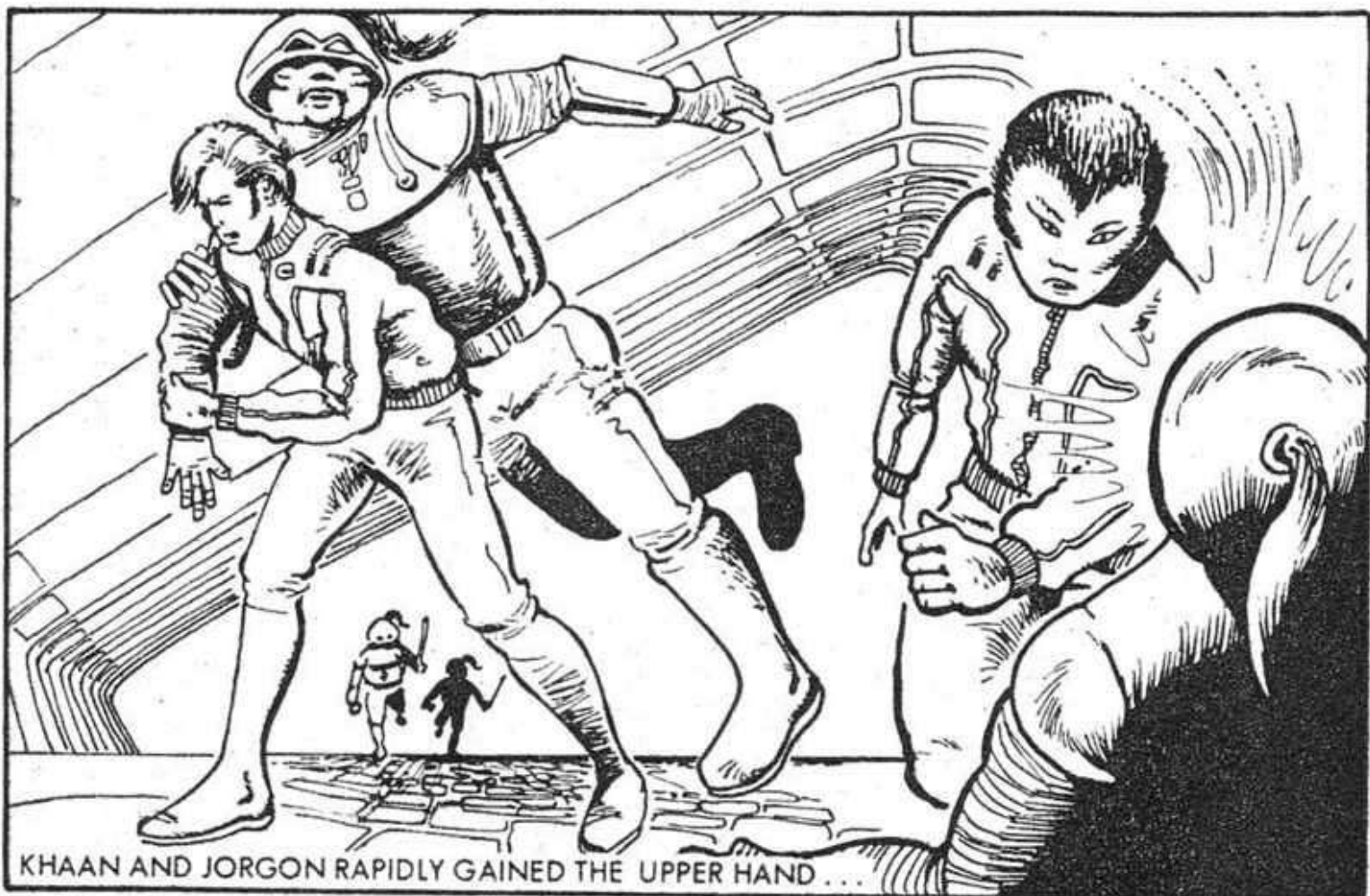
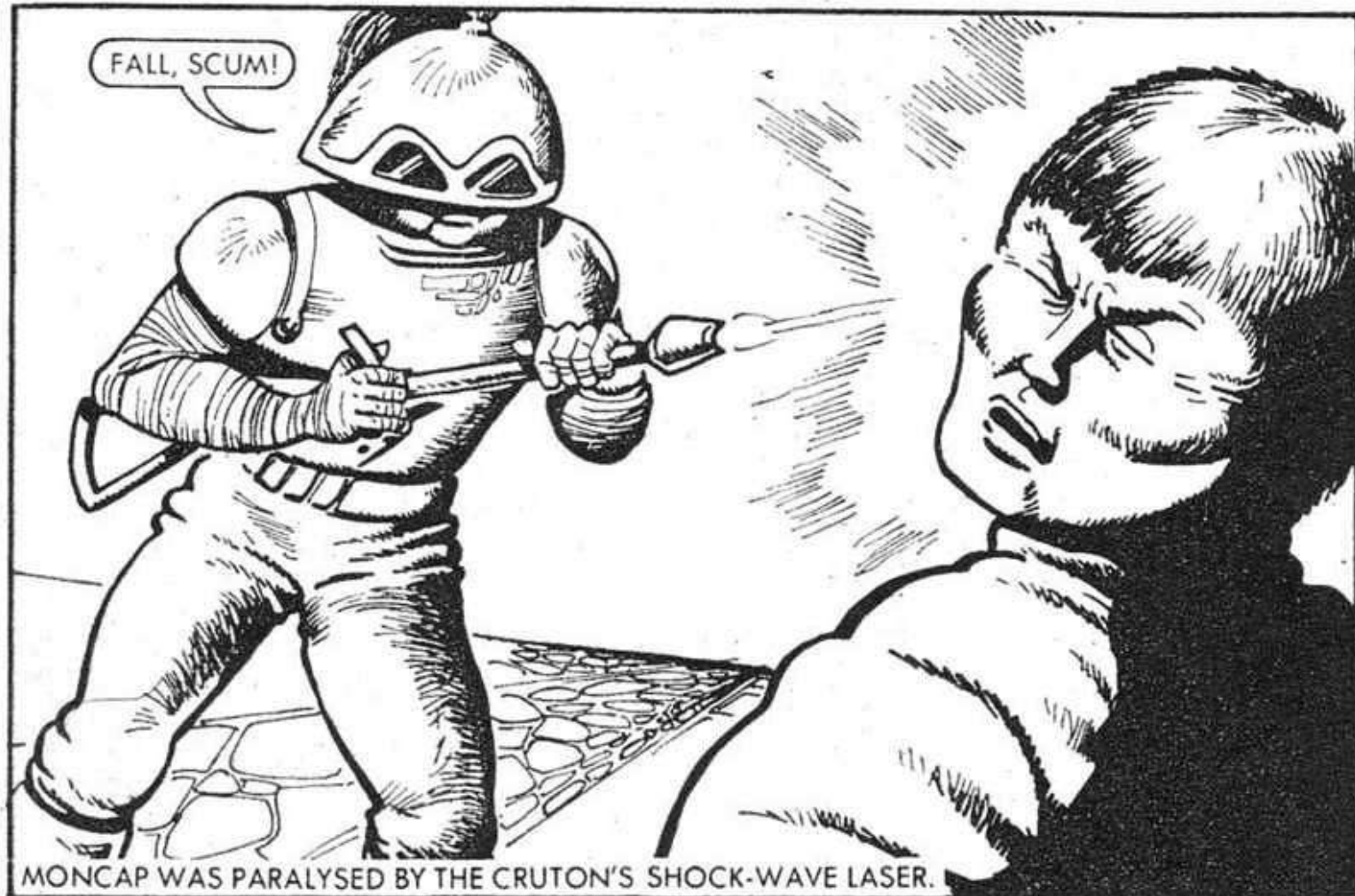
BUT WAITING IN THAT BUILDING. .

WE HAVE
THEM TRAPPED.



NO YOU DON'T! BY
GEMMAL, MY BLOWS
DO NOT EVEN SHAKE
HIM.





... UNTIL SUPERIOR NUMBERS TOOK THEIR TOLL.

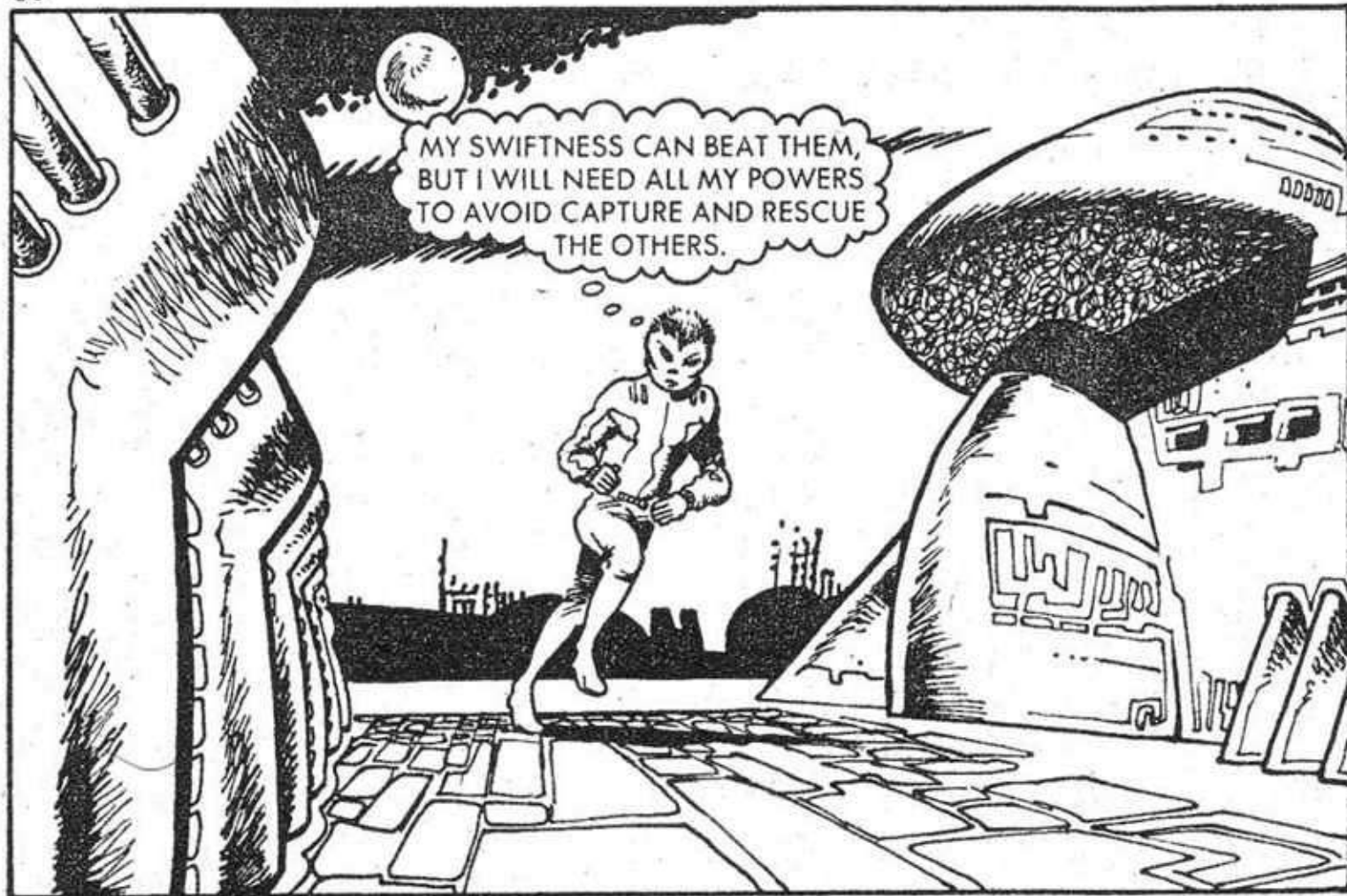
MY HEAD! I AM GOING TO EXPLODE!



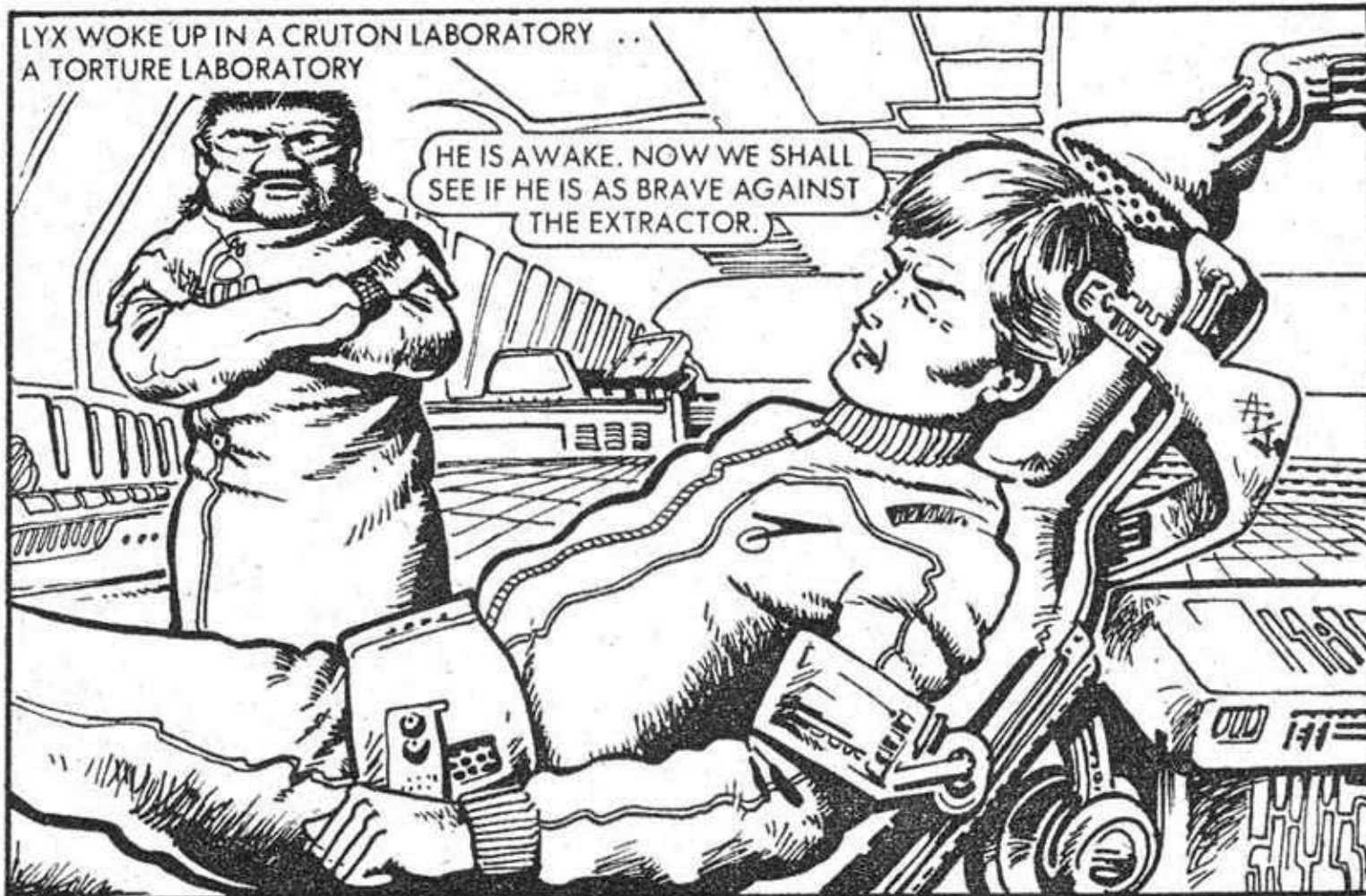
THE NIMBLE ONE ESCAPED
BY JUMPING OVER US.

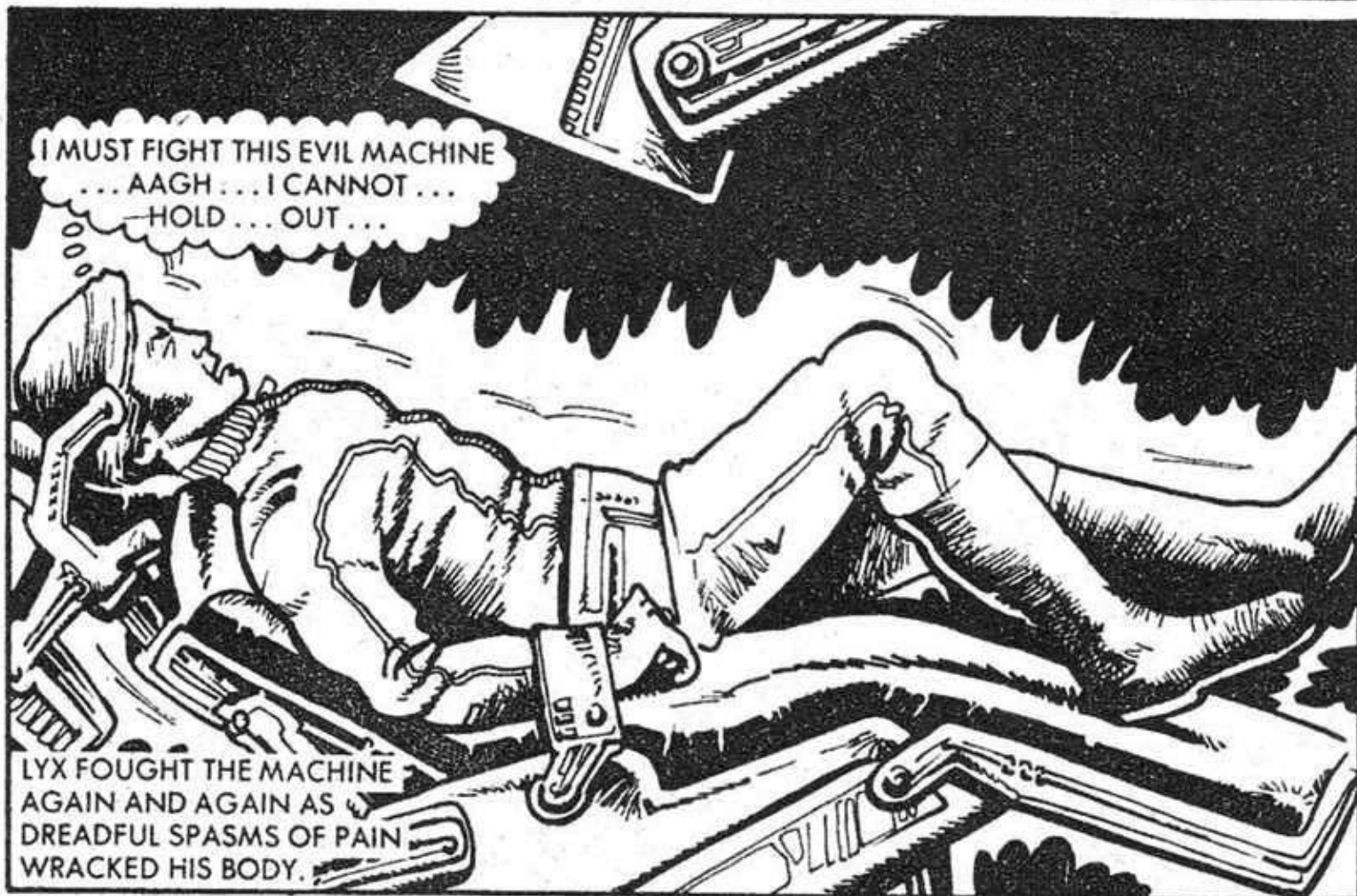
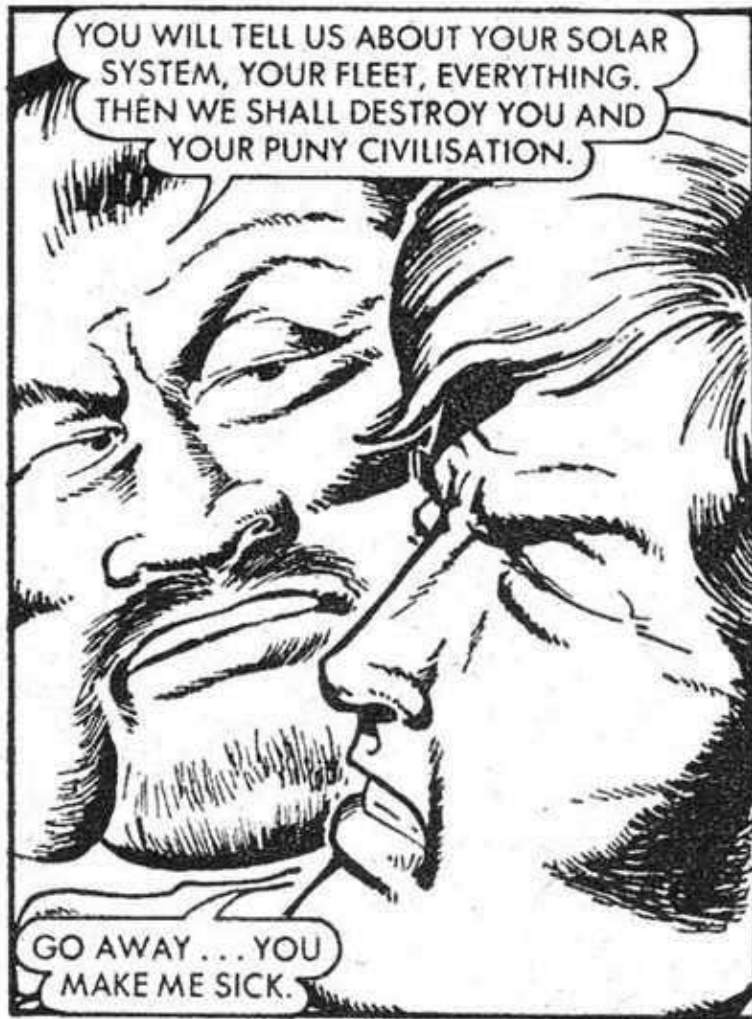
NEVER MIND! THE
PYROLUPES WILL GET HIM.





LYX WOKE UP IN A CRUTON LABORATORY ...
A TORTURE LABORATORY







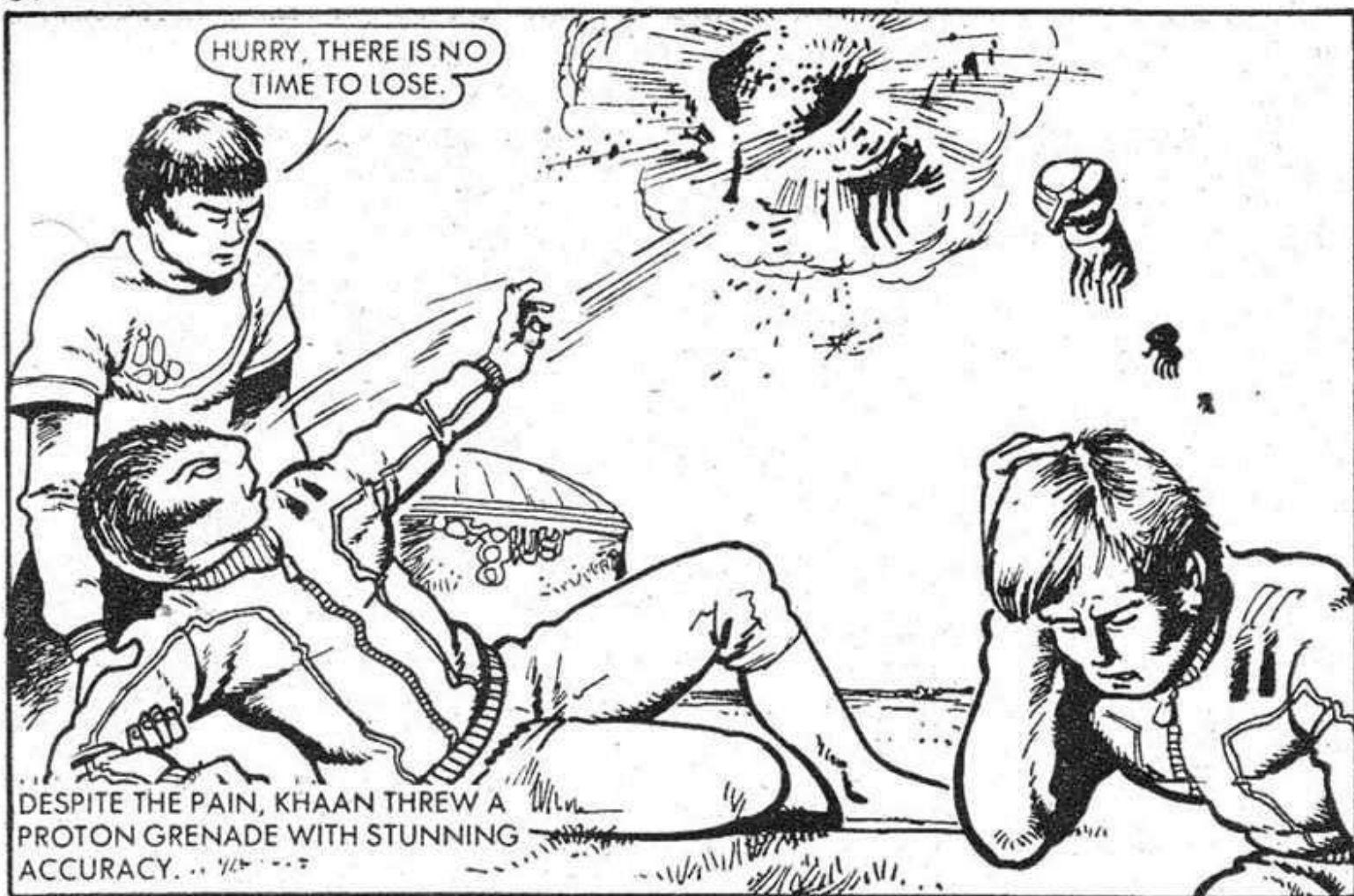
KHAAN MANAGED TO CARRY LYX.

THIS WAY, QUICKLY! THERE IS A
SPACESHIP.

IT IS A GOOD THING THEY LEFT YOU
FOR DEAD. GO AS FAST AS YOU
CAN, I SHALL FOLLOW.

I'M HIT! TAKE THE CAPTAIN.
LEAVE ME TO DEAL WITH THE
PYROLUPE.

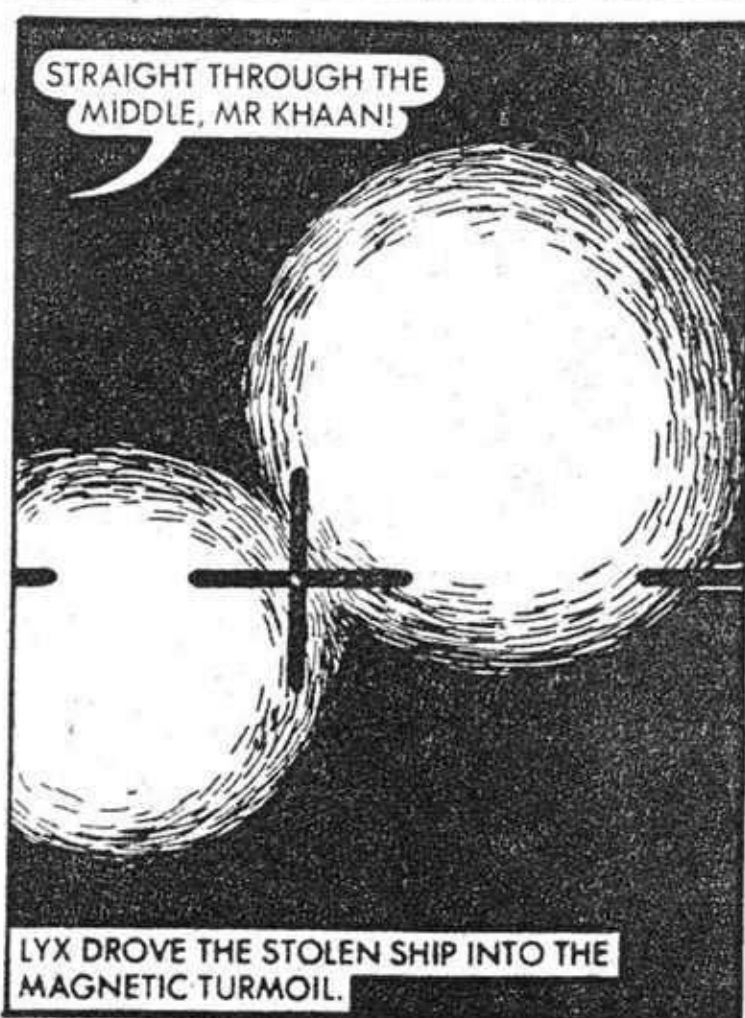
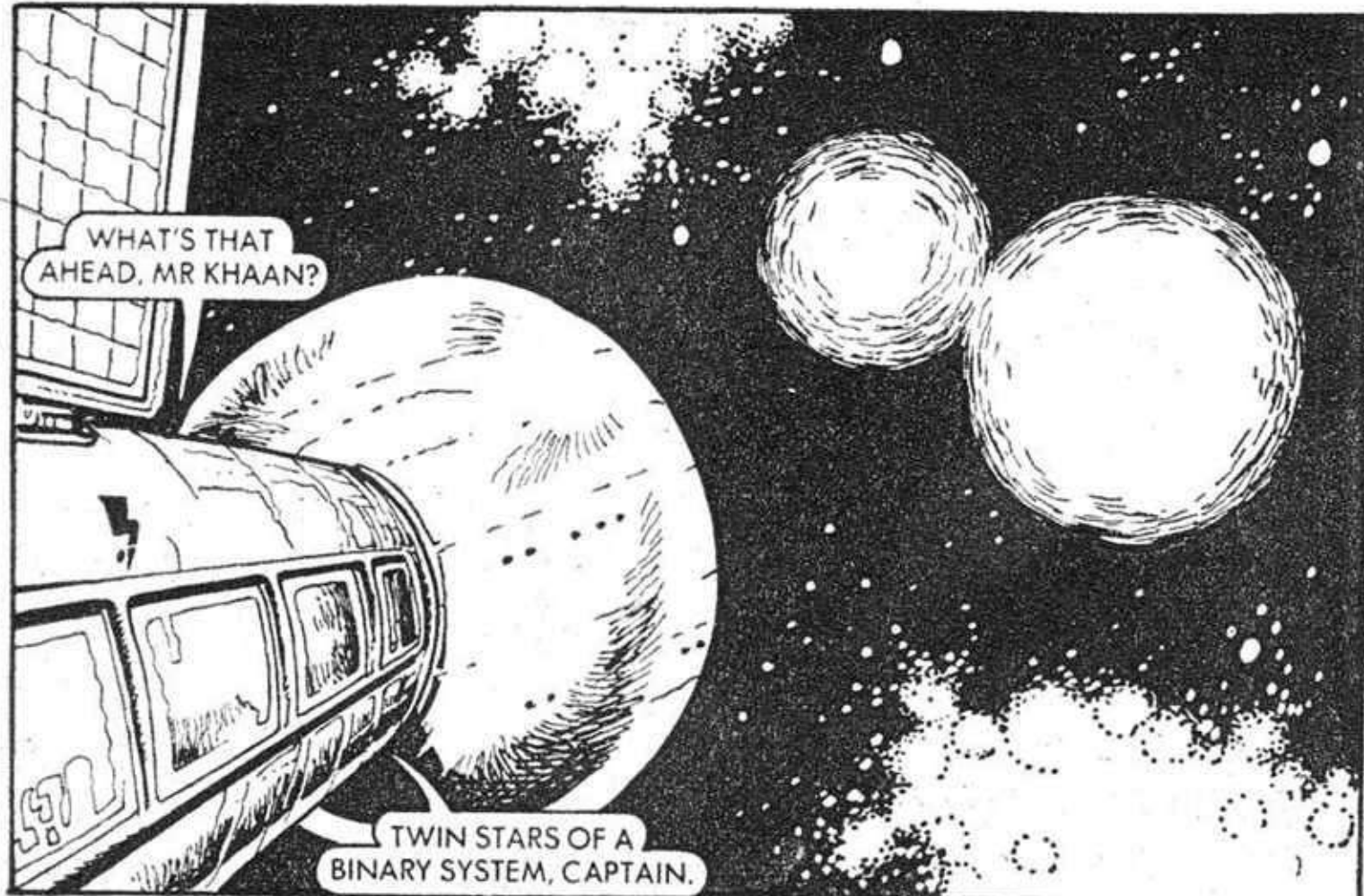
I WILL NOT LEAVE
YOU. KILL IT NOW!



SOON THEY WERE ON BOARD THE SPACESHIP, HEADING TO SAFETY.







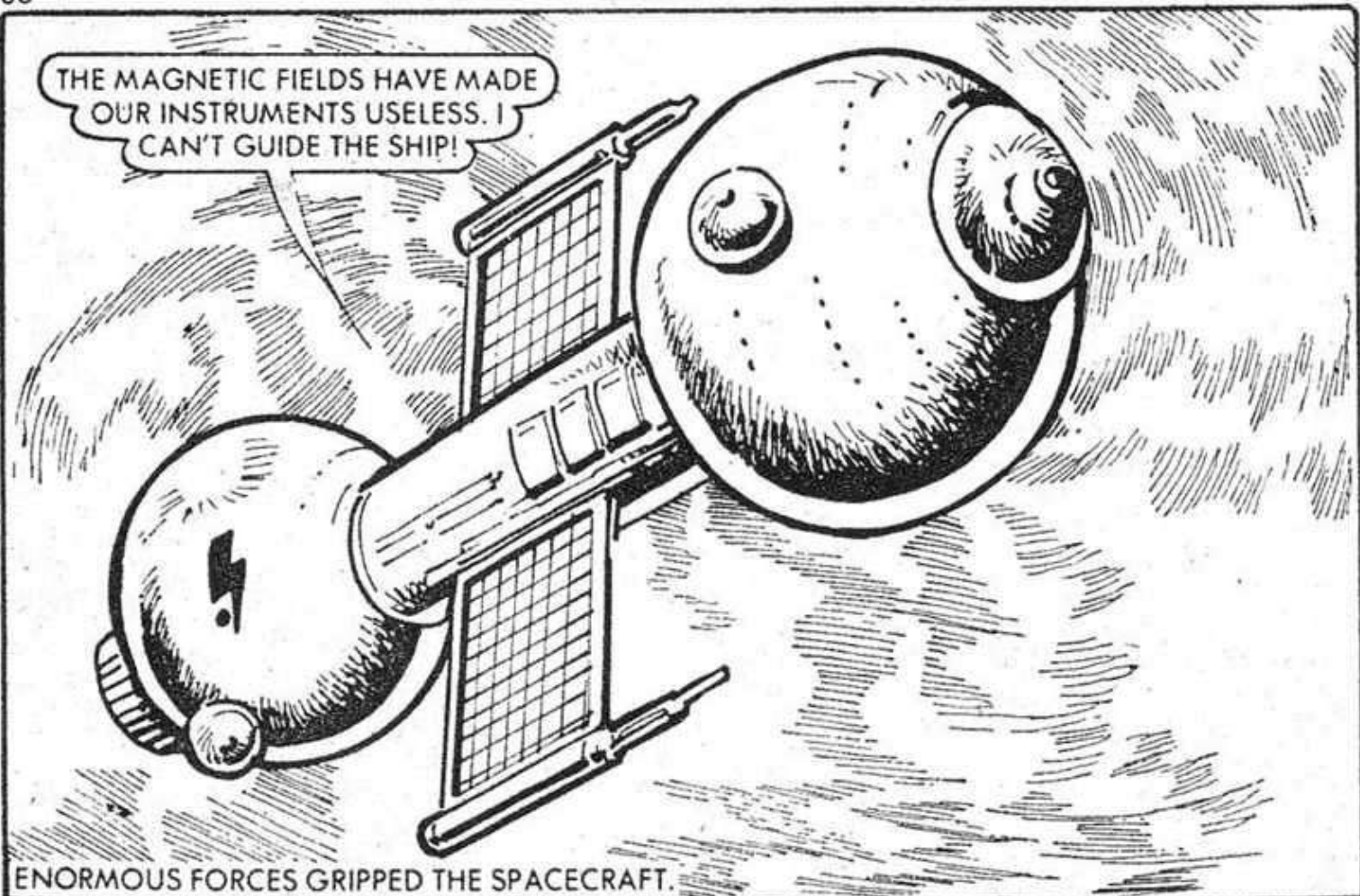
LEXOS! THE ALIENS ARE INSANE! NOTHING CAN SURVIVE THE FORCE FIELDS OF THE VARIANTS.



THE LORDS OF THE BARRIER MUST BE DEFEATED NOW!



THE MAGNETIC FIELDS HAVE MADE
OUR INSTRUMENTS USELESS. I
CAN'T GUIDE THE SHIP!



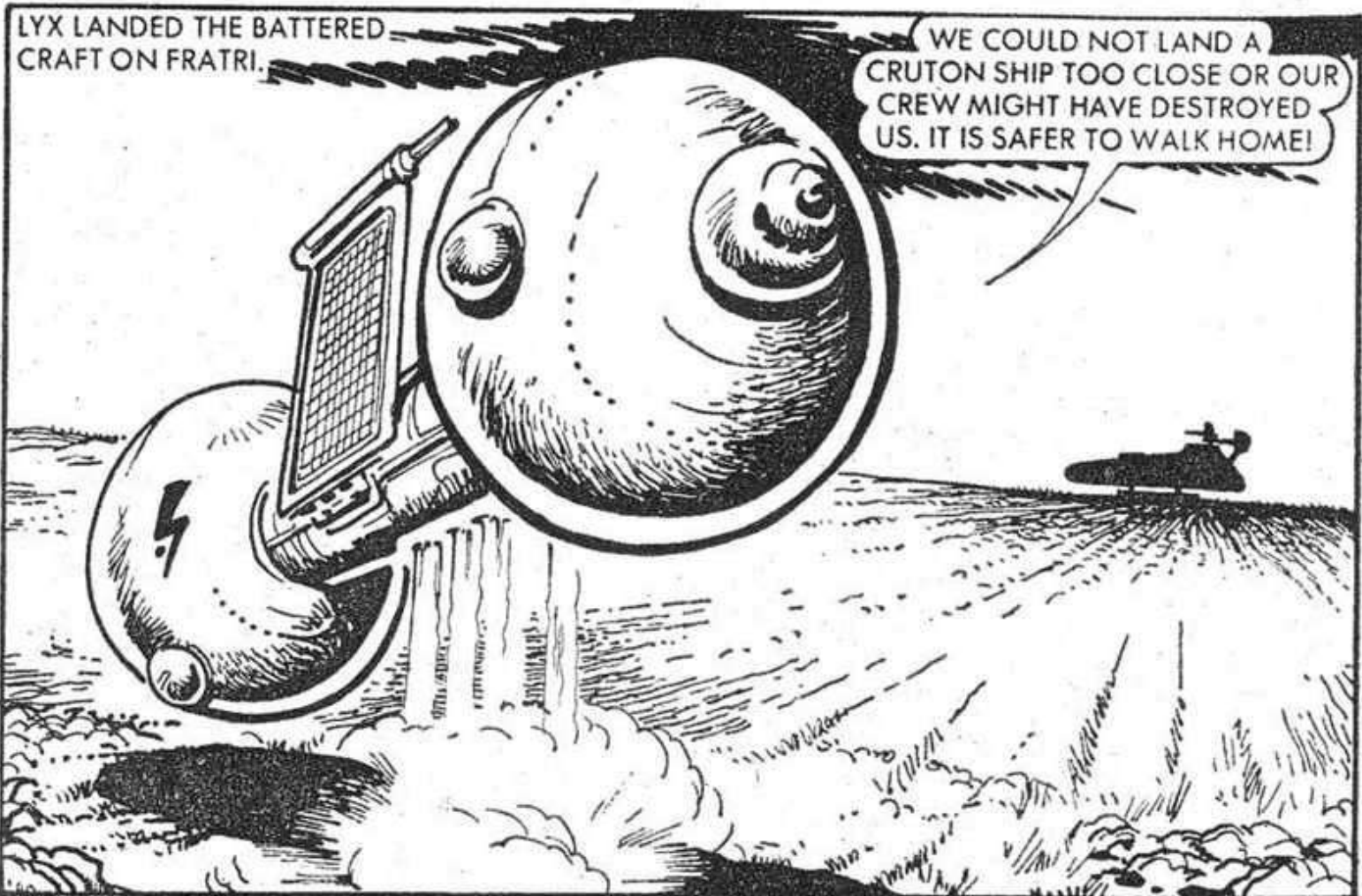
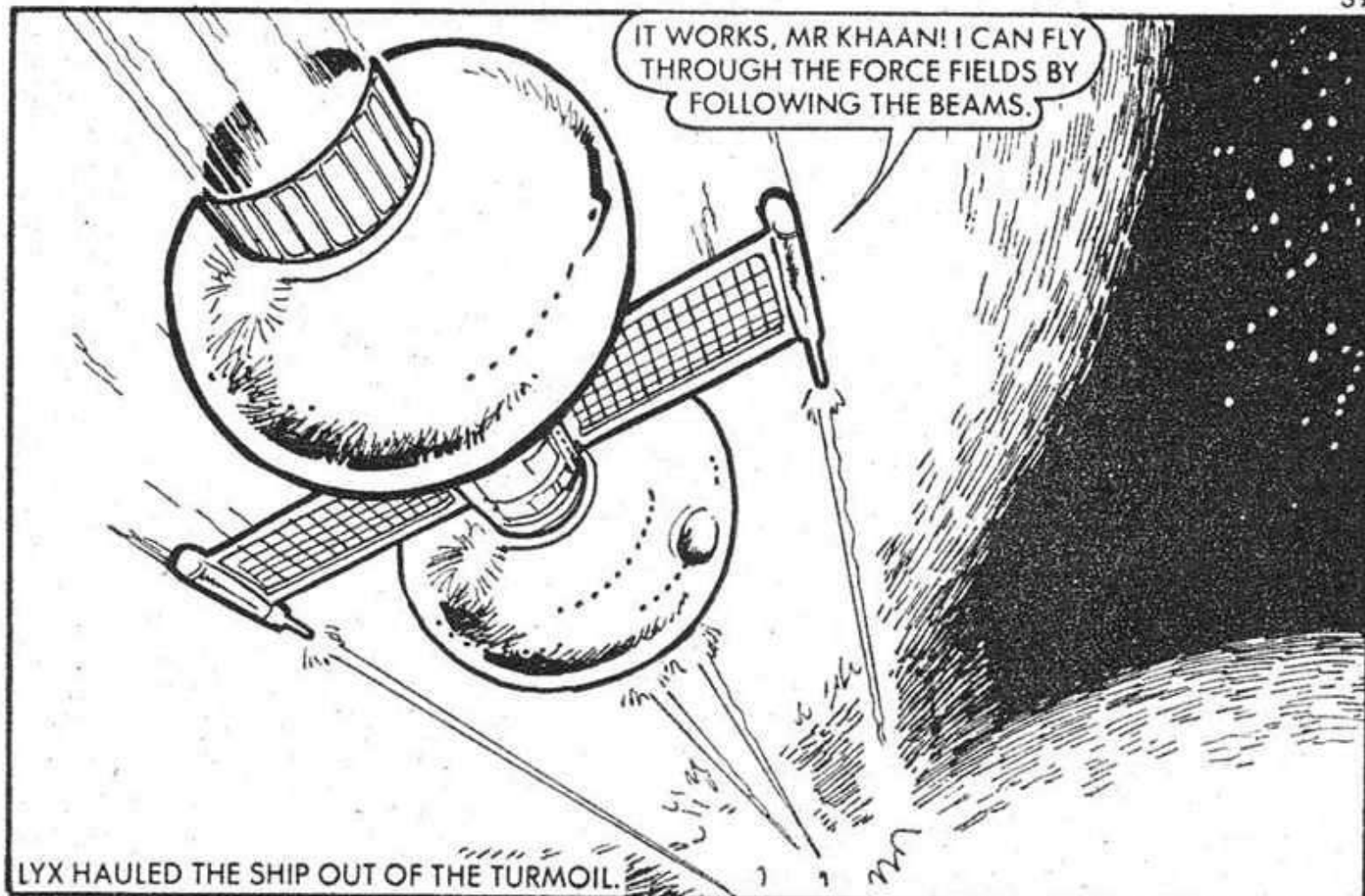
ENORMOUS FORCES GRIPPED THE SPACECRAFT.



SEE! THEY ARE BEING DESTROYED BY THE
VARIANTS. WE WILL REJOIN THE FLEET AND
BEGIN THE INVASION BEYOND THE
BARRIER!

CAPTAIN! THE LASER CANNON! THEY
WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED BY THE
FORCE FIELDS. THEY WILL PROVIDE
A STRAIGHT LINE FOR YOU FOLLOW.





A LITTLE LATER . . .

THERE IS SOMETHING
WRONG, CAPTAIN.

I DO NOT NEED YOUR ACUTE
PERCEPTIVE POWERS TO TELL
ME THAT. IT IS TOO QUIET!

STAND SLOWLY, ALIENS, AND DO NOT MAKE
ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.

WHO . . . WHAT . . . ???

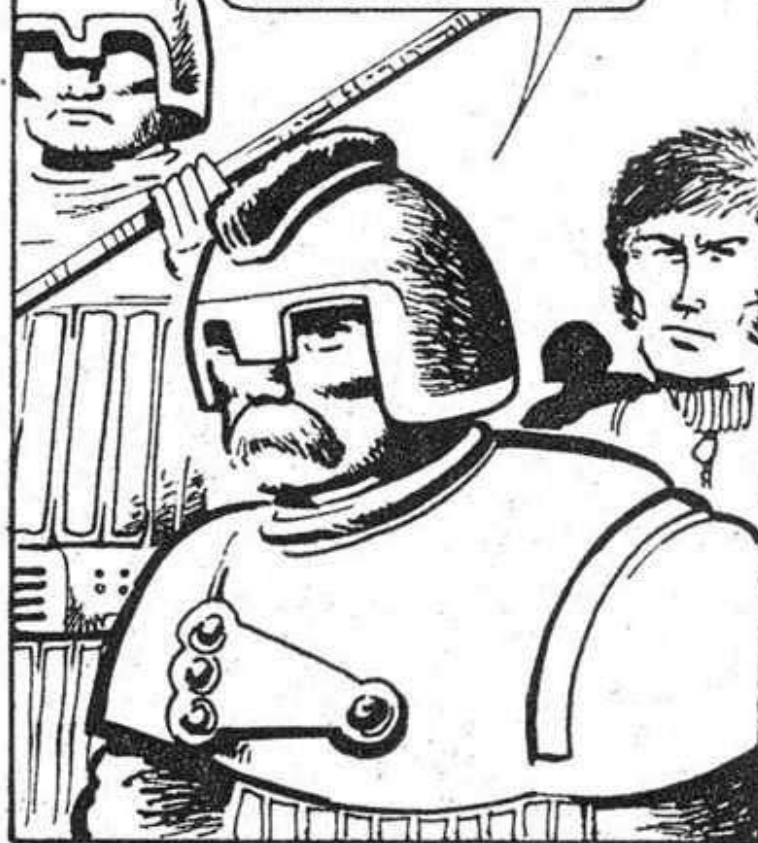
LYX SOON FOUND OUT ... ON HIS OWN SHIP!

NOW THAT WE HAVE THE CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER, YOU WILL ORDER YOUR CREW TO THEIR STATIONS. WE ATTACK CRUTA IMMEDIATELY.

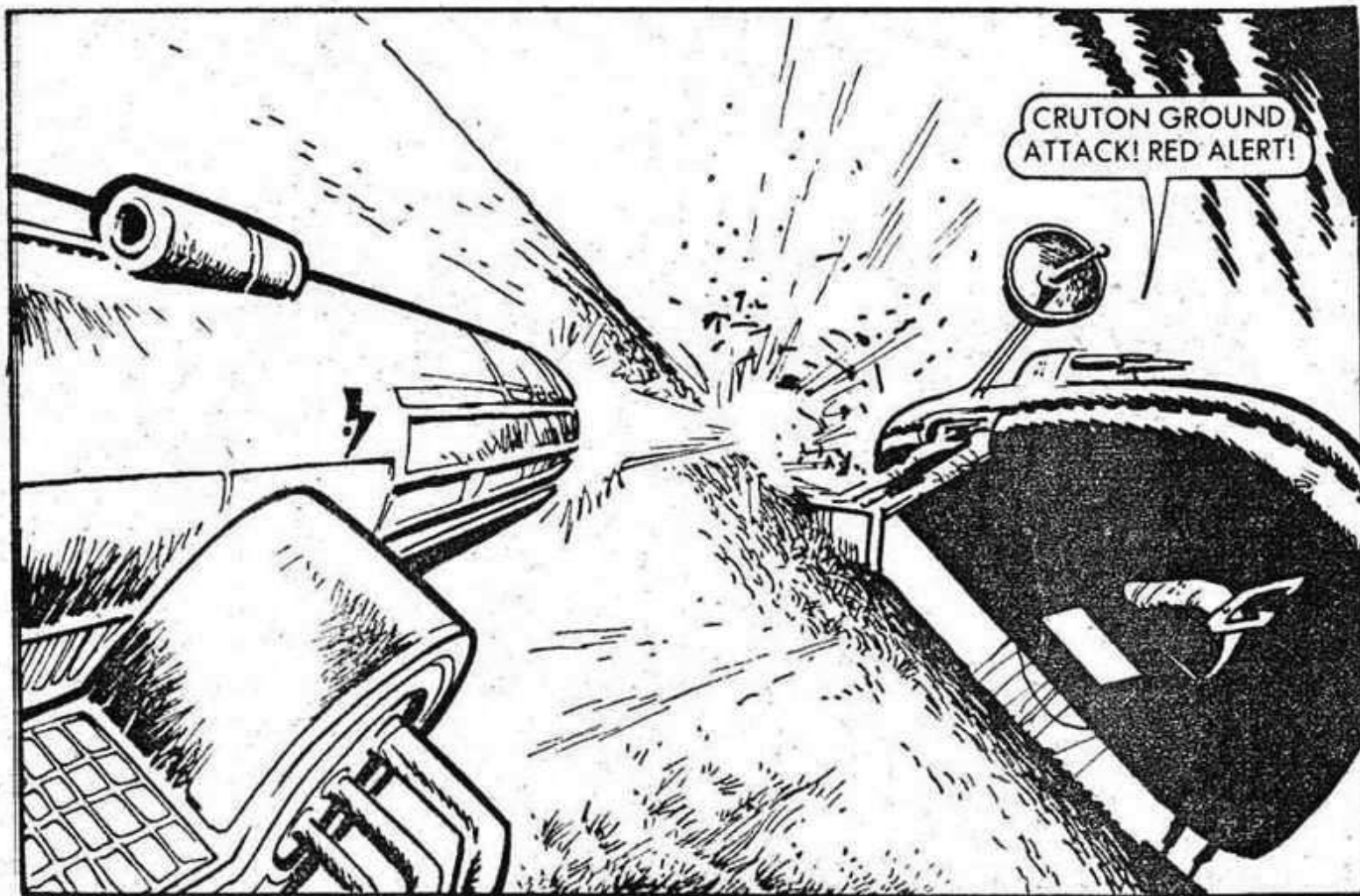
YOU ARE MAD. YOU WILL ALL BE KILLED!



DO NOT QUESTION! YOU OBEY—OR DIE. WE SHALL USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY THE CRUTON STRONGHOLD FOR EVER.

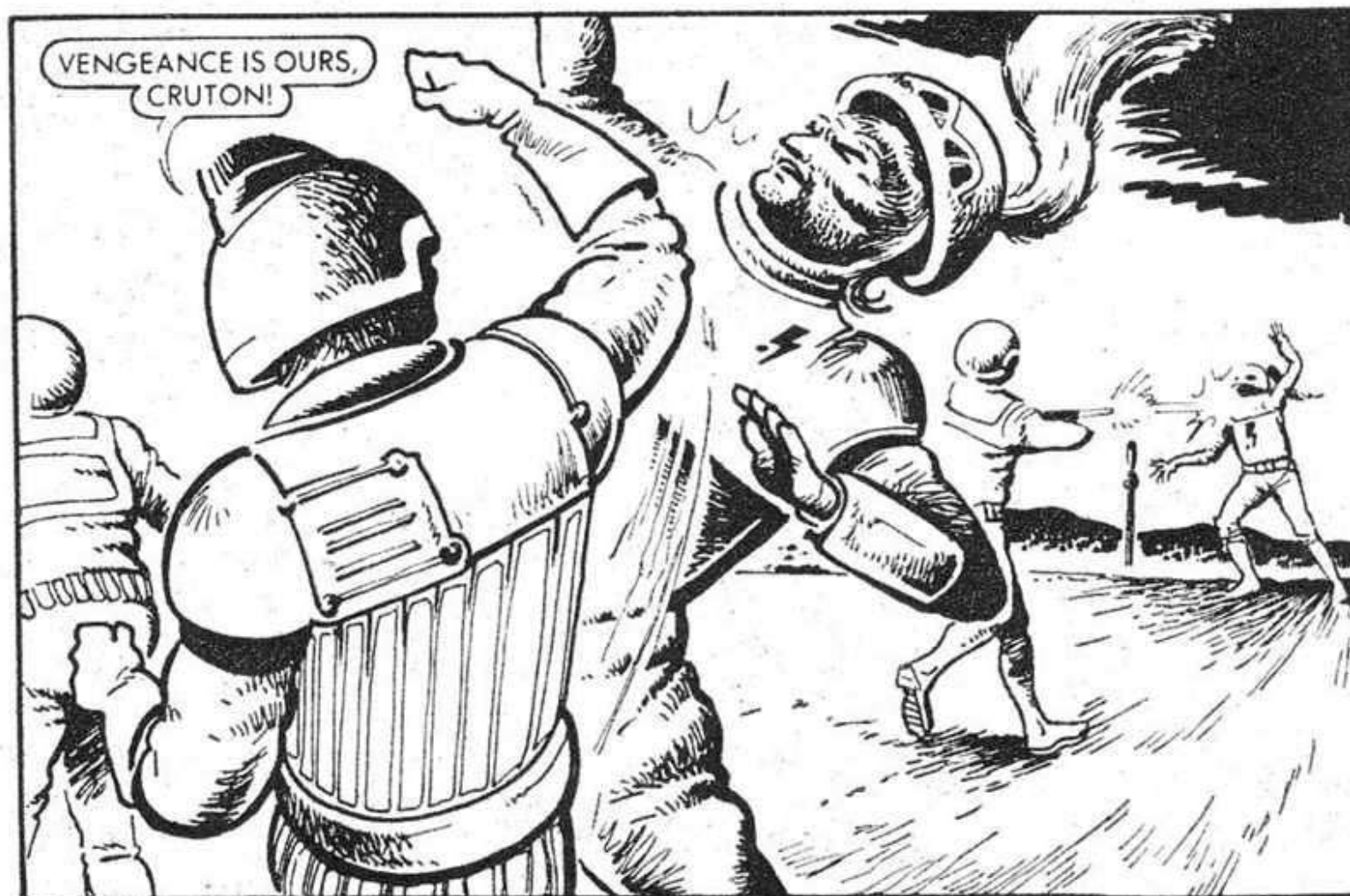
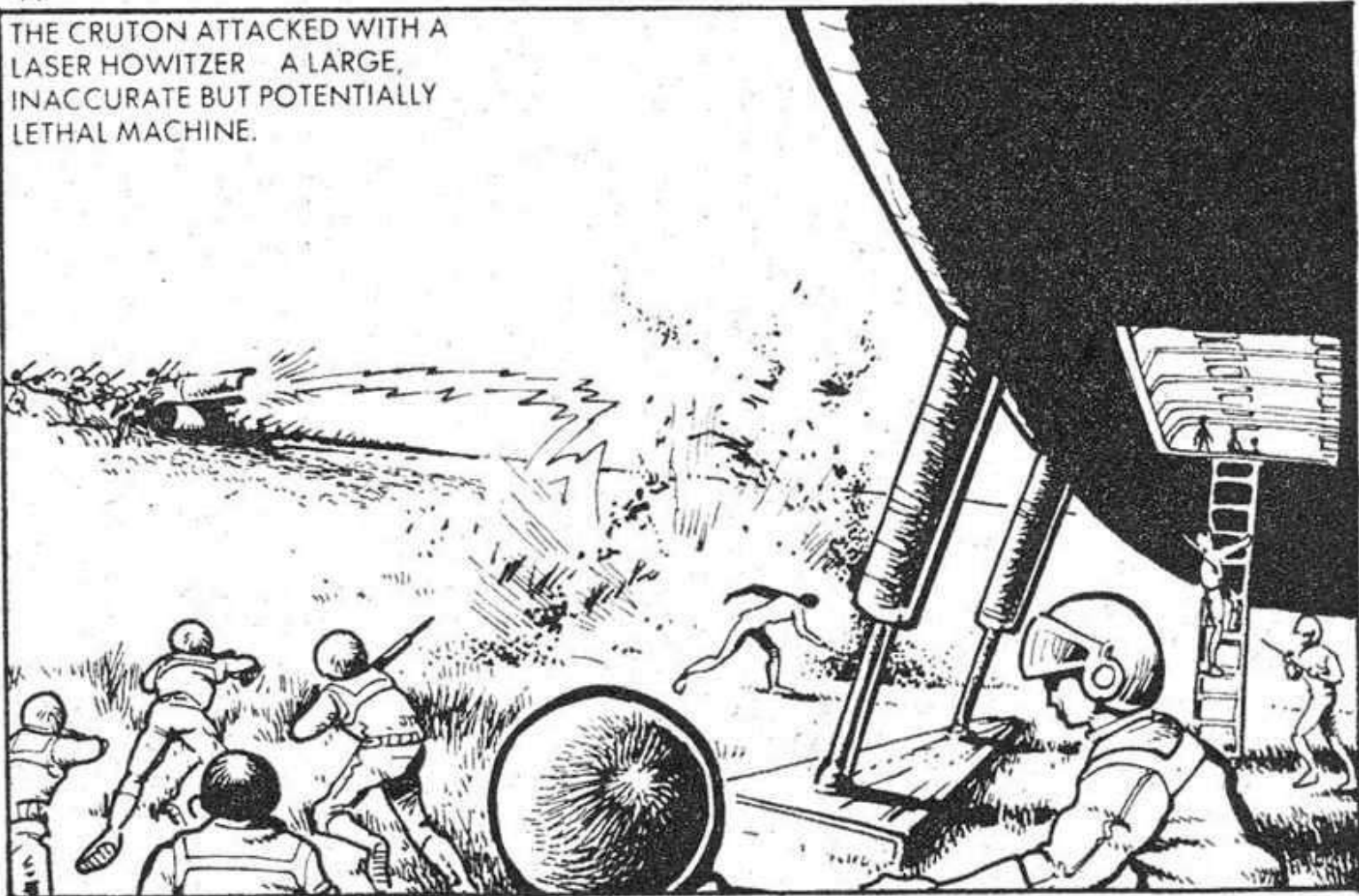


I HAVE HEARD OF YOU. YOU ARE GABON OF THE HILL-DWELLERS AND YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE CRUTON. THESE MEN OF THE BARRIER ARE OUR ALLIES. YOU MUST LISTEN TO THEM.





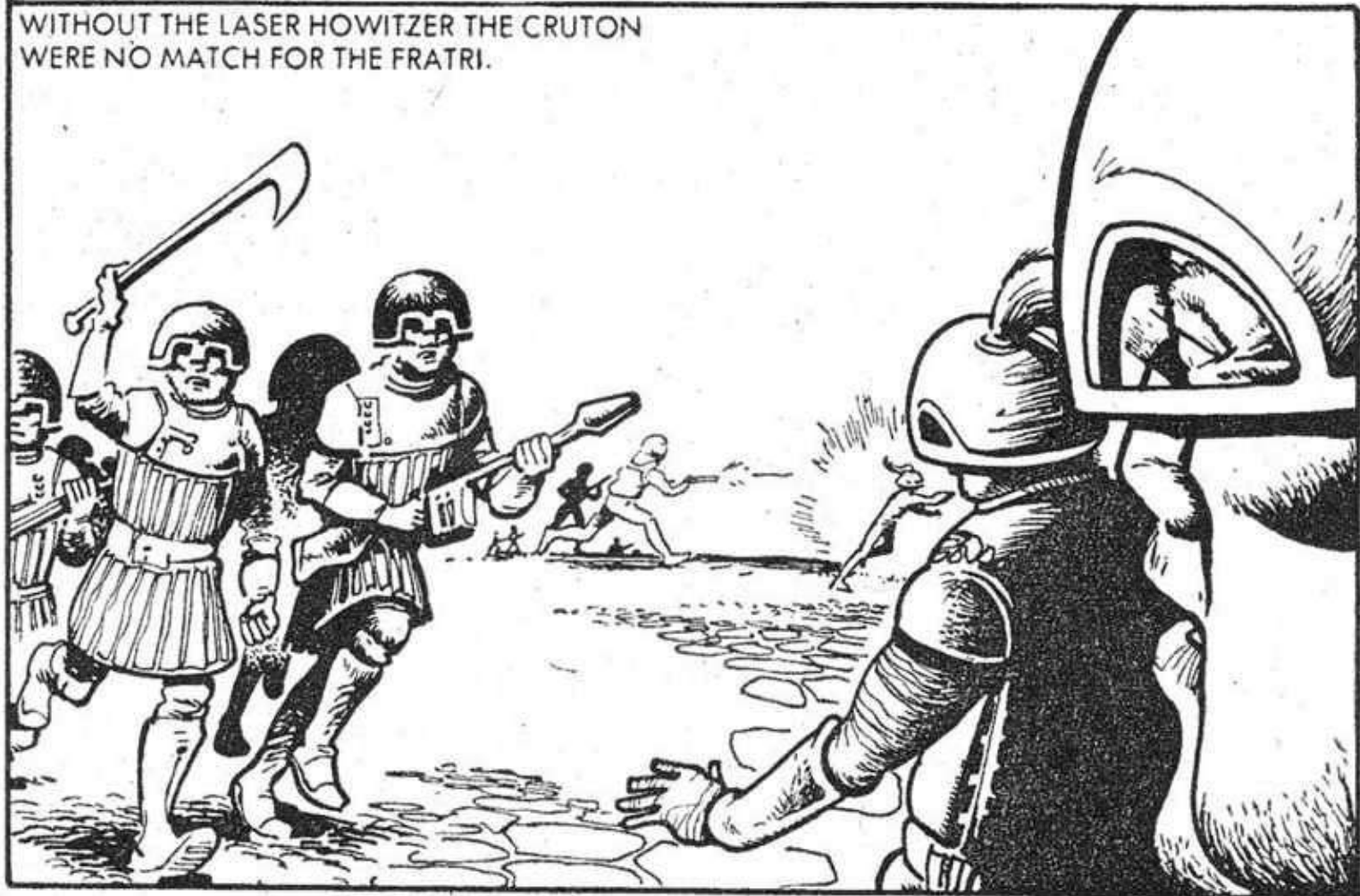
THE CRUTON ATTACKED WITH A
LASER HOWITZER A LARGE,
INACCURATE BUT POTENTIALLY
LETHAL MACHINE.







WITHOUT THE LASER HOWITZER THE CRUTON WERE NO MATCH FOR THE FRATRI.



THE CRUTON WERE PUT TO FLIGHT.



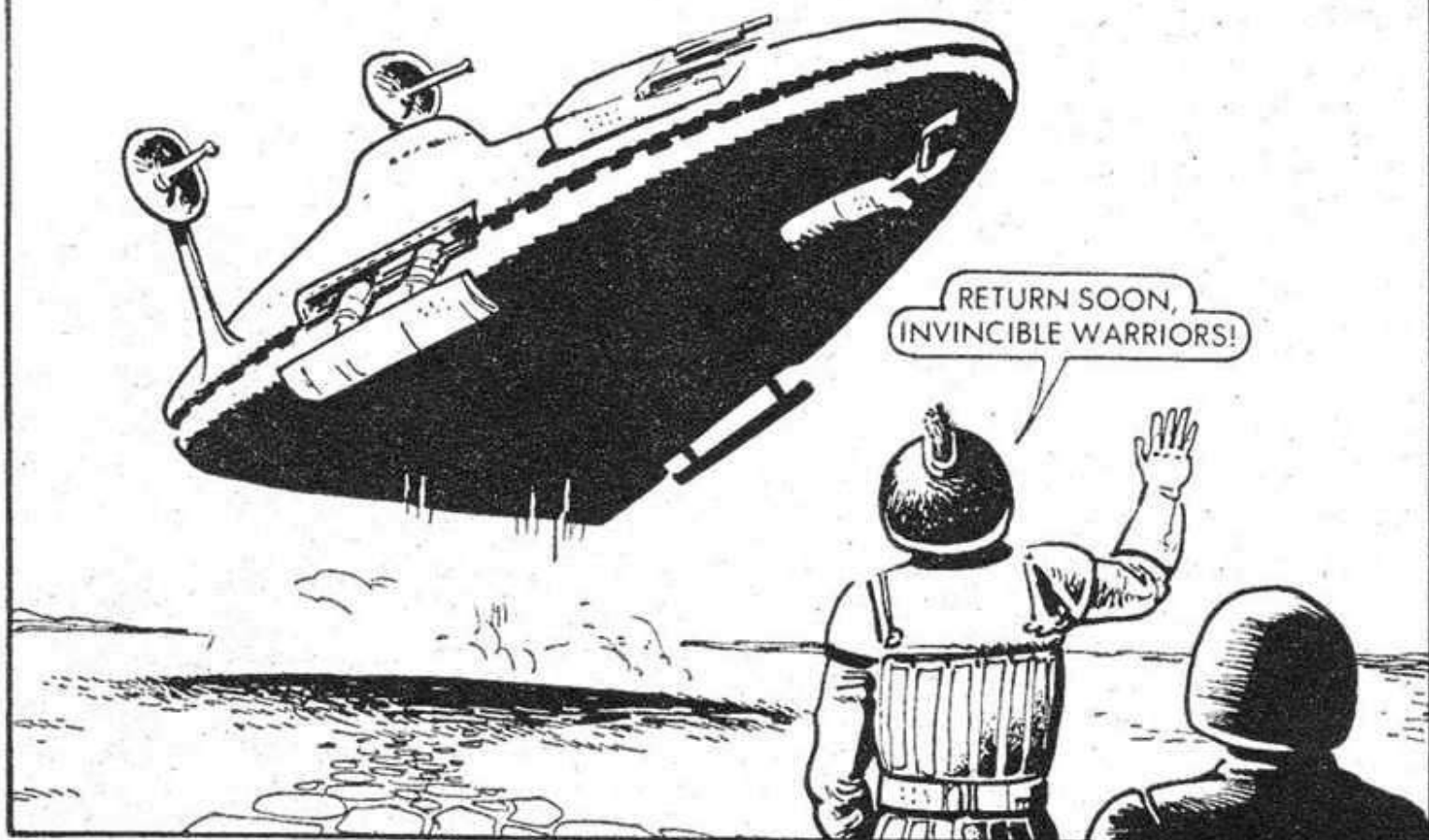
YOU FOUGHT WELL, STRANGERS. TOGETHER WE SHALL CONQUER THIS EVIL MENACE.



NOT SO, WORTHY FRIEND. WE LEAVE AT ONCE TO WARN OUR PEOPLE OF THE CRUTON INVASION. WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

GO WELL. WE SHALL HOLD OUR PLANET UNTIL YOU RETURN TO JOIN US.

SEEKER LIFTED OFF FOR THE BARRIER AND THE ONLY EXIT.

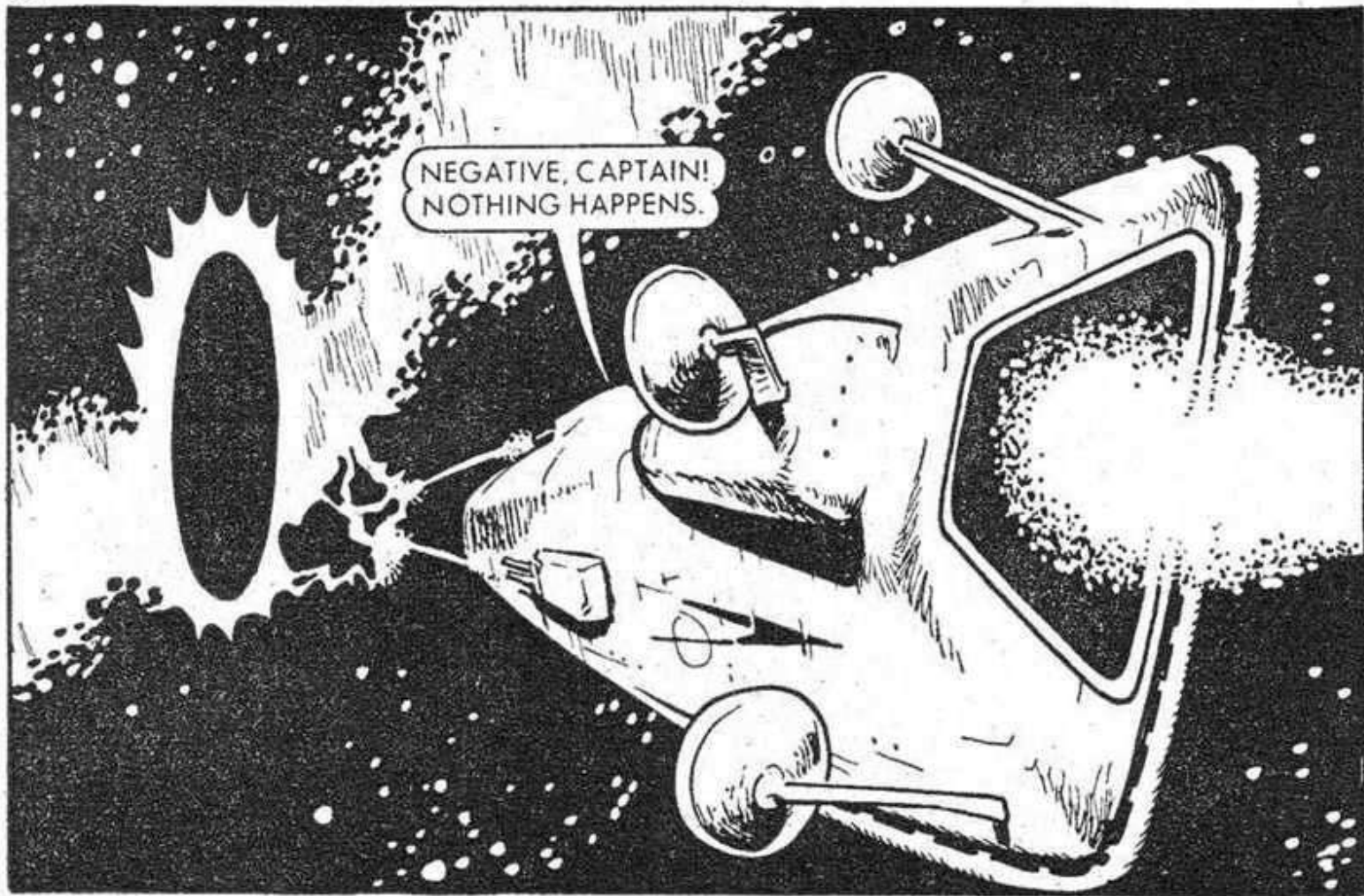


CAPTAIN, THE CRUTON INVASION FLEET IS IMMENSE!

OUR SENSOR SCRAMBLERS WILL
KEEP US HIDDEN. I SEE THE HOLE
AHEAD. ACCELERATION LATCH
TWO, GENTLY NOW!

THE HOLE, DOLEG KHAAN.

YOUR USE OF MY TITLE TELLS ME THAT
YOU ARE WORRIED, CAPTAIN.
THE HOLE IS CLOSING. FIRE ANTI-
MATTER PROJECTOR!



LYX RECALLED THE BATTLE WITH THE ALIEN CRAFT.

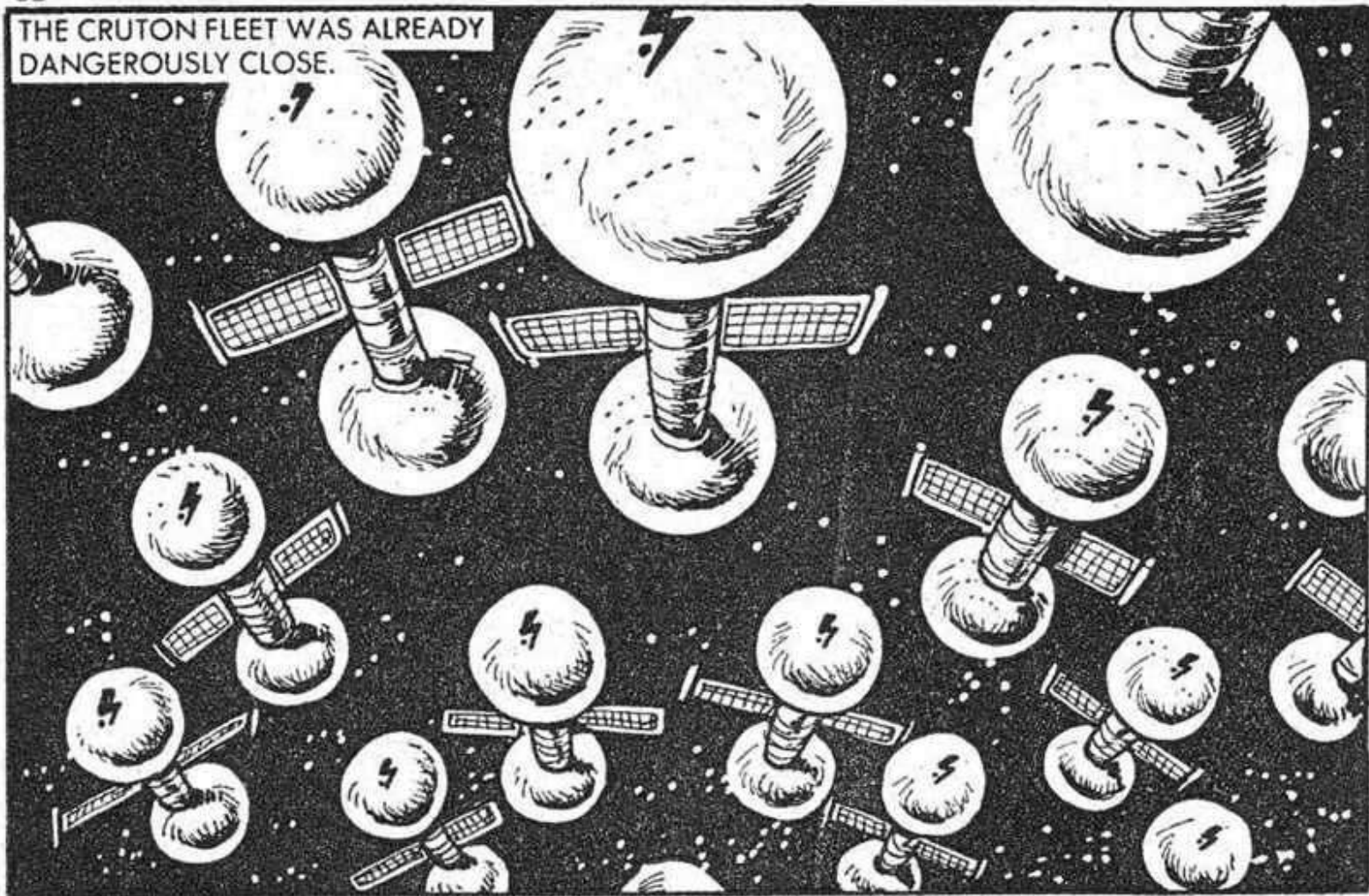


THIS IS THE MEETING PLACE OF
MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER.
WE MADE A HOLE IN THE
BARRIER BY FIRING ANTI-
MATTER BEAMS AT A MATTER
BARRIER... WE NEUTRALISED
AN AREA BIG ENOUGH TO
PASS THROUGH.



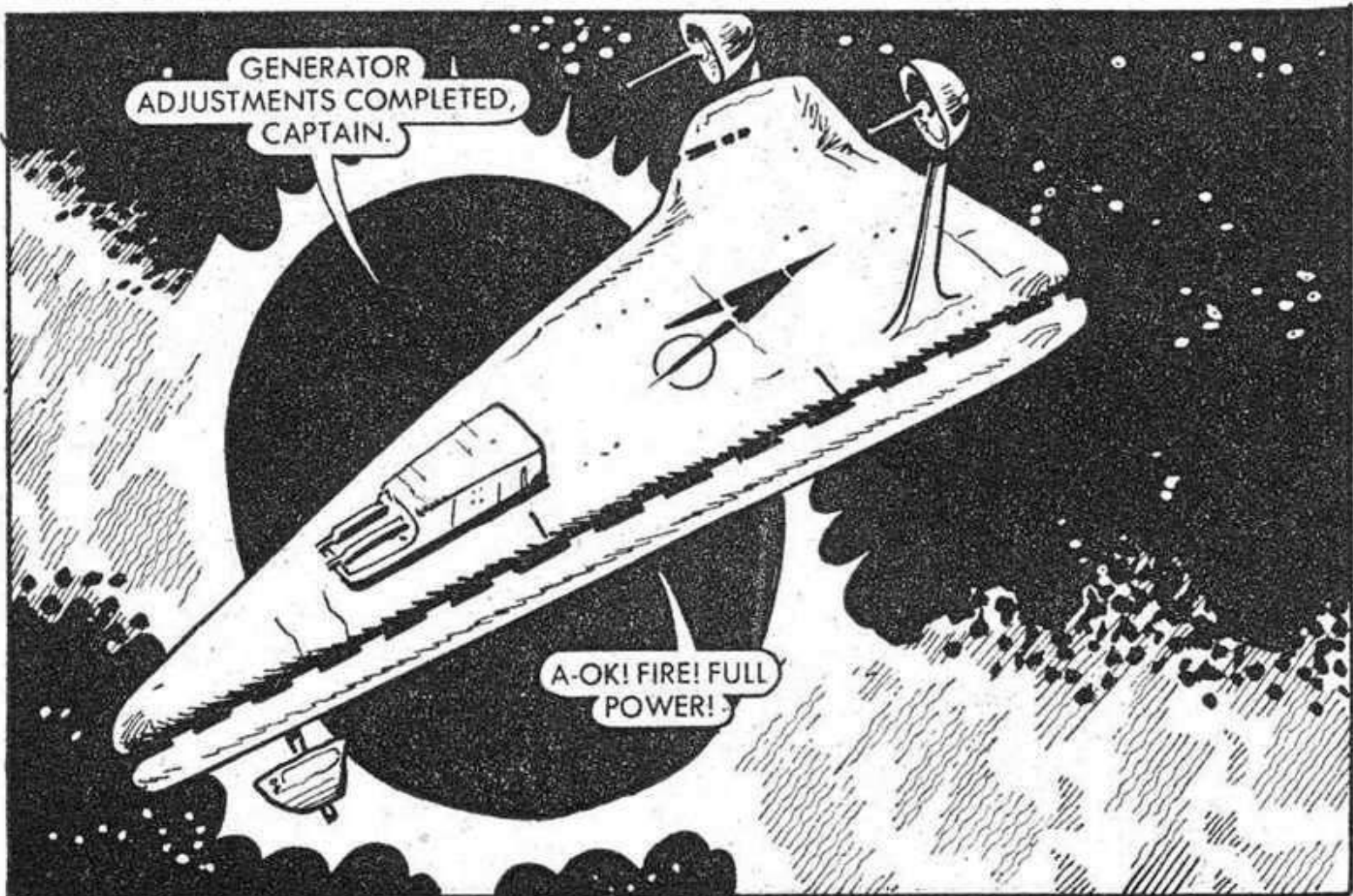
ON THIS SIDE WE MUST FIRE MATTER
BEAMS AT AN ANTI-MATTER BARRIER.
ENGINEERS, ALTER GENERATOR FOR
NEUTRON BEAM EMISSION WITH ALL
POSSIBLE HASTE.

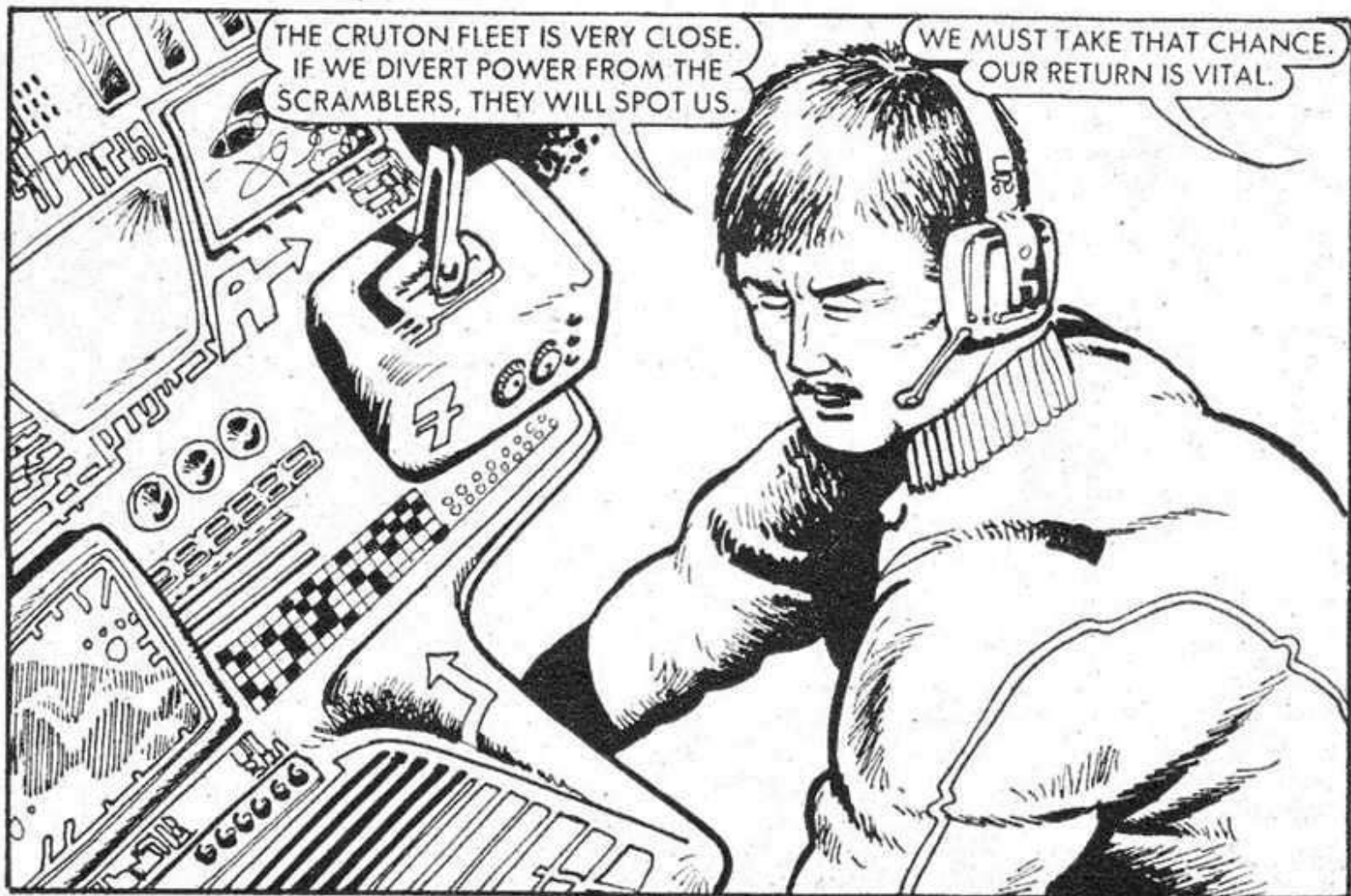
THE CRUTON FLEET WAS ALREADY
DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.



GENERATOR
ADJUSTMENTS COMPLETED,
CAPTAIN.

A-OK! FIRE! FULL
POWER!



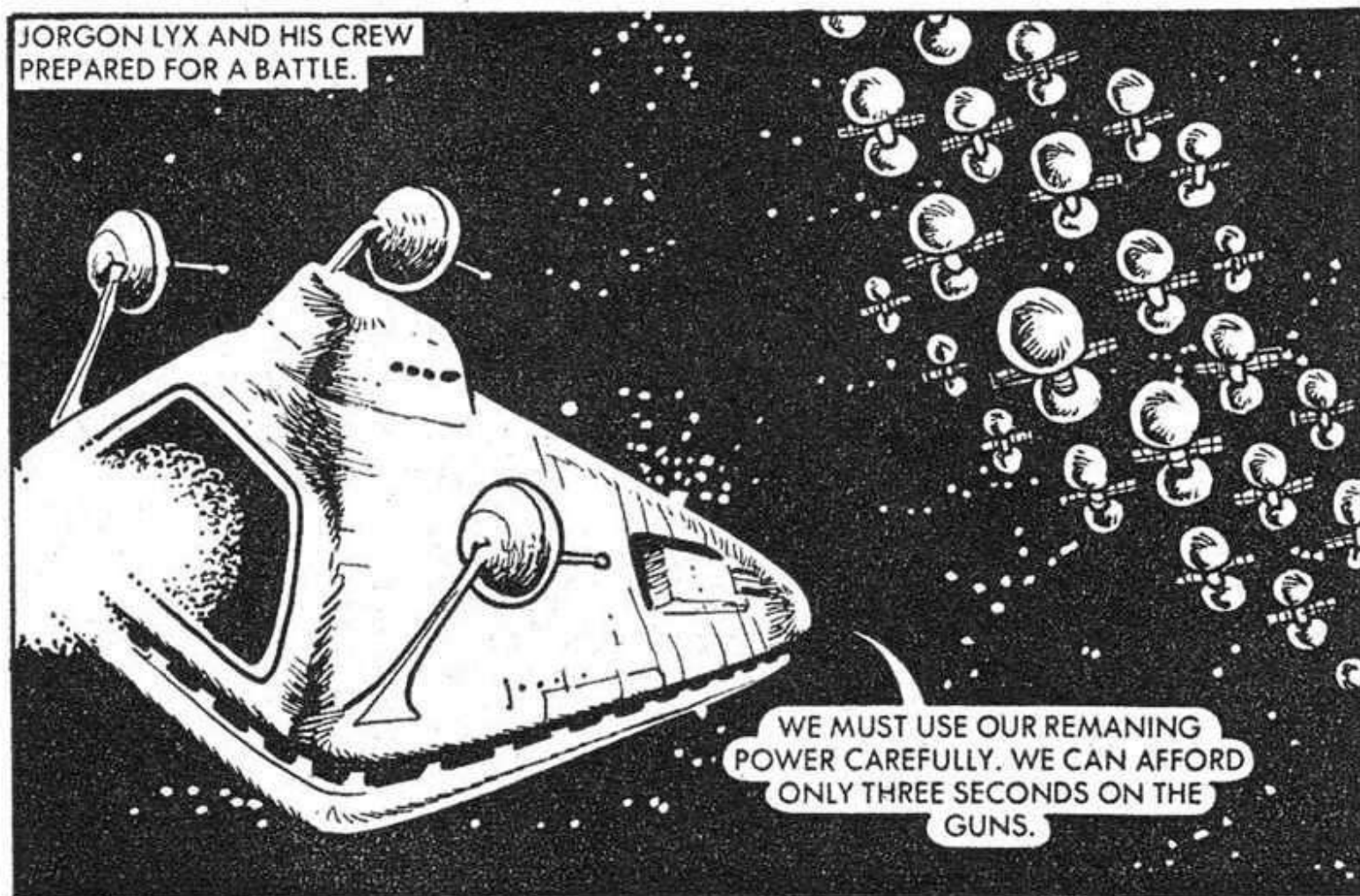


AS SEEKER'S POWER WAS DIVERTED, THE CRUTON FLEET PICKED HER UP.

THOSE ACCURSED BARRIER PEOPLE!
THIS TIME WE WILL DESTROY THEM
AND THEIR SHIP. THEIR SPACE
WEAPONS CANNOT HARM US!

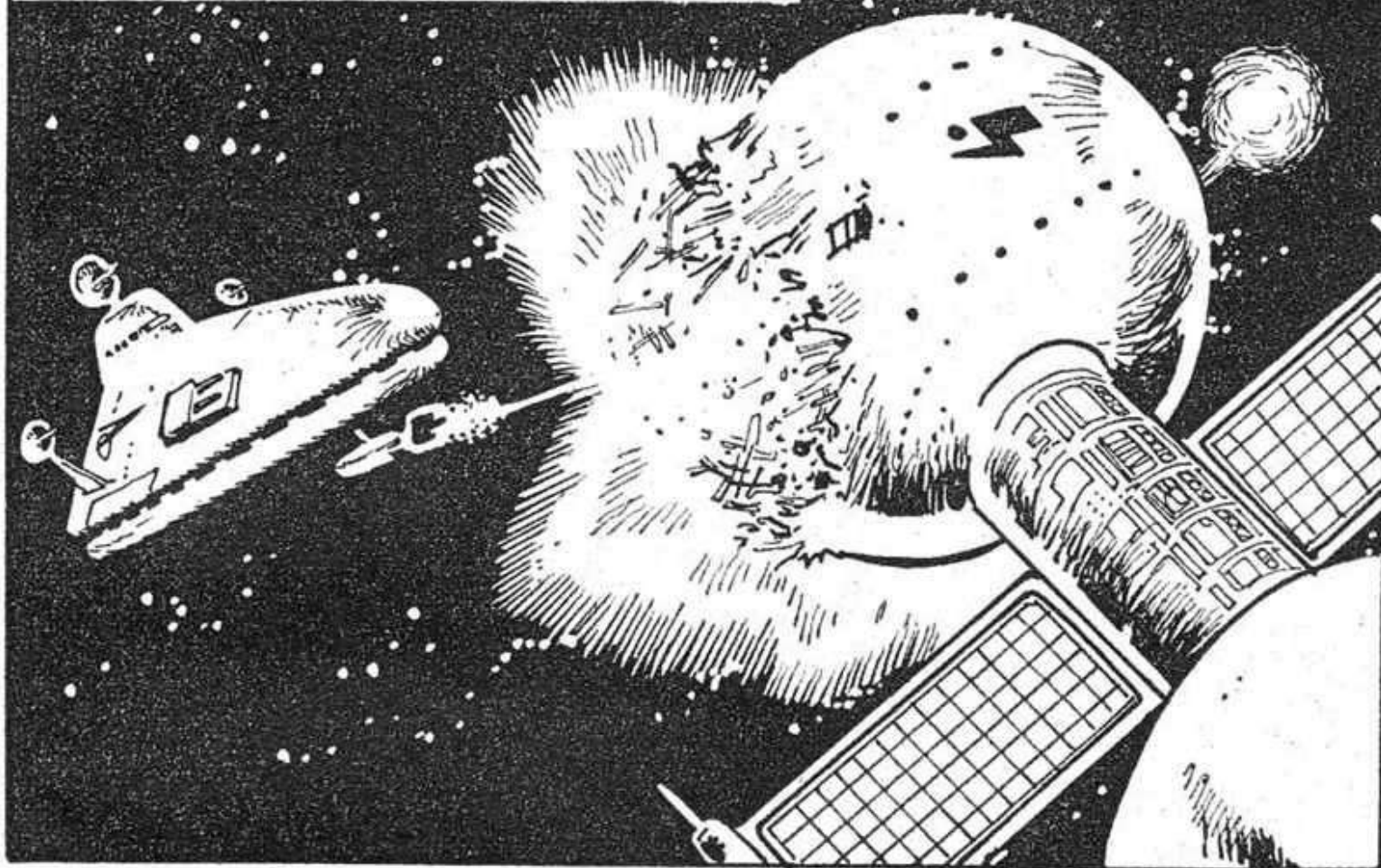


JORGON LYX AND HIS CREW
PREPARED FOR A BATTLE.

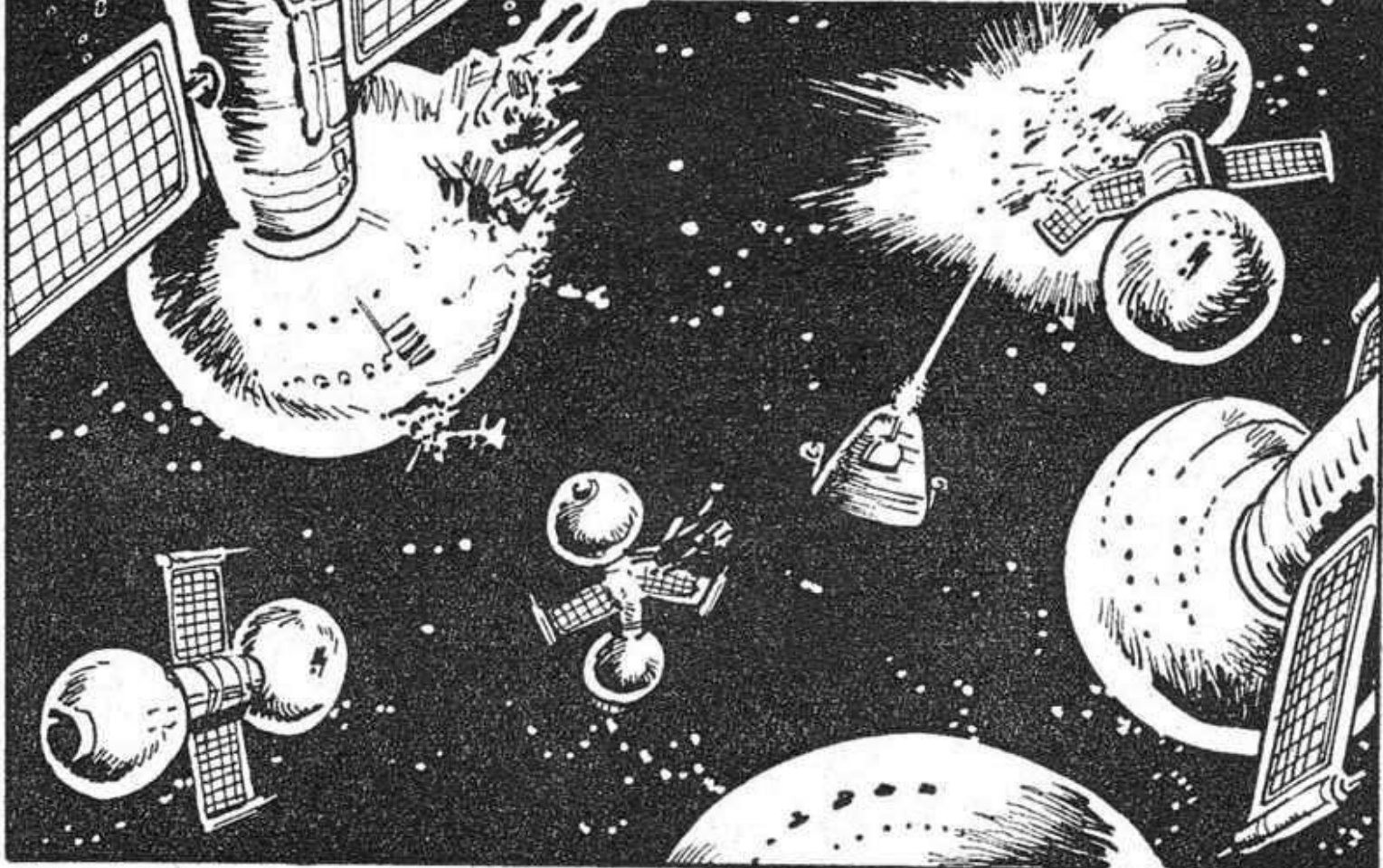


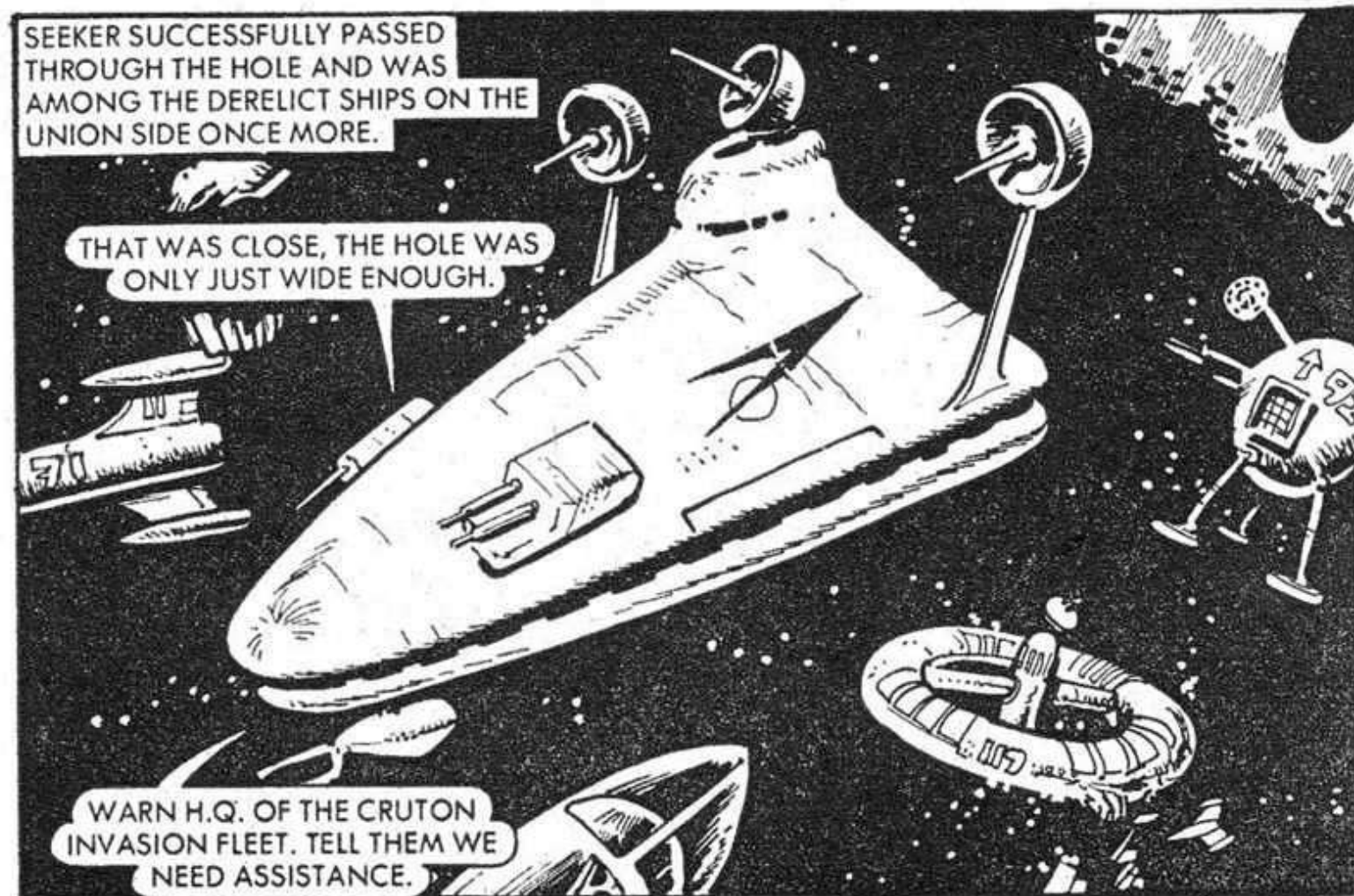
WE MUST USE OUR REMANING
POWER CAREFULLY. WE CAN AFFORD
ONLY THREE SECONDS ON THE
GUNS.

A ONE SECOND BURST STOPPED THE LEADING FIGHTER.

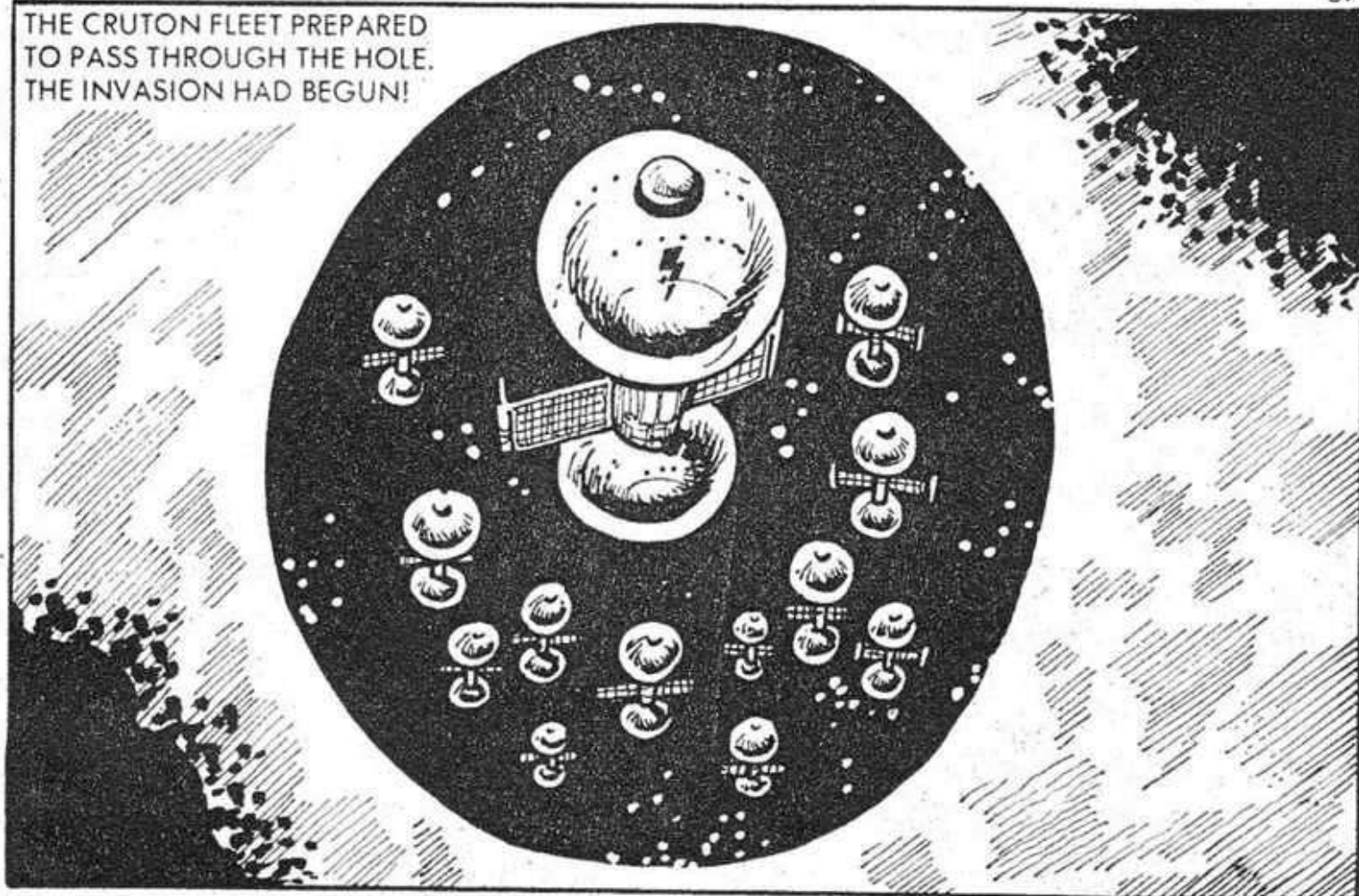


TWO MORE RAPID BURSTS SENT ANOTHER TWO CRUTON VESSELS TO THEIR DOOM.



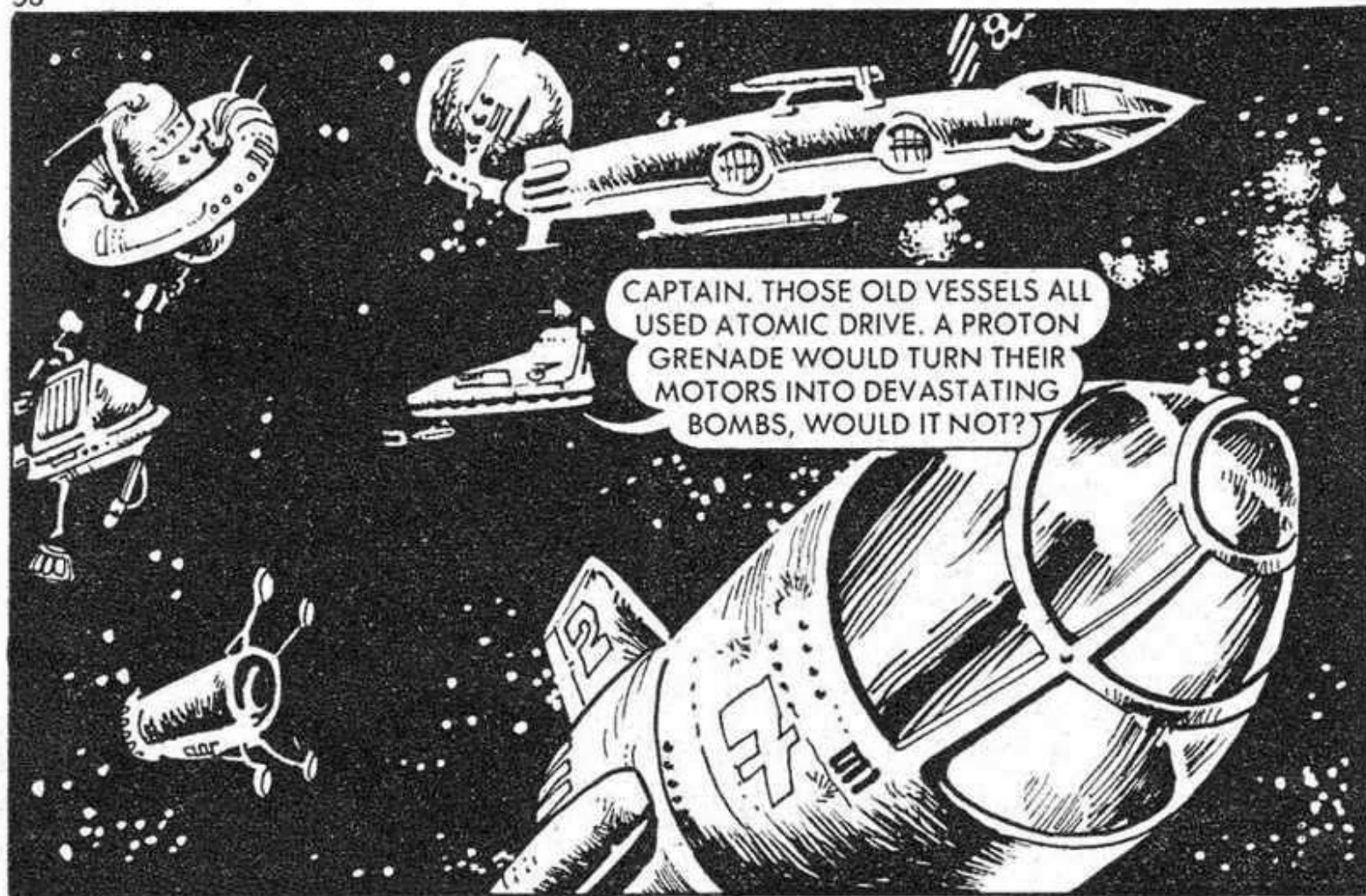


THE CRUTON FLEET PREPARED
TO PASS THROUGH THE HOLE.
THE INVASION HAD BEGUN!



CLOSE ALL SYSTEMS.
SILENT RUNNING! THEY
CANNOT DETECT US,
BUT WE ARE POWERLESS
TO STOP THEM.

SEEKER LAY DORMANT, HIDDEN AMONG THE DERELICT SHIPS.



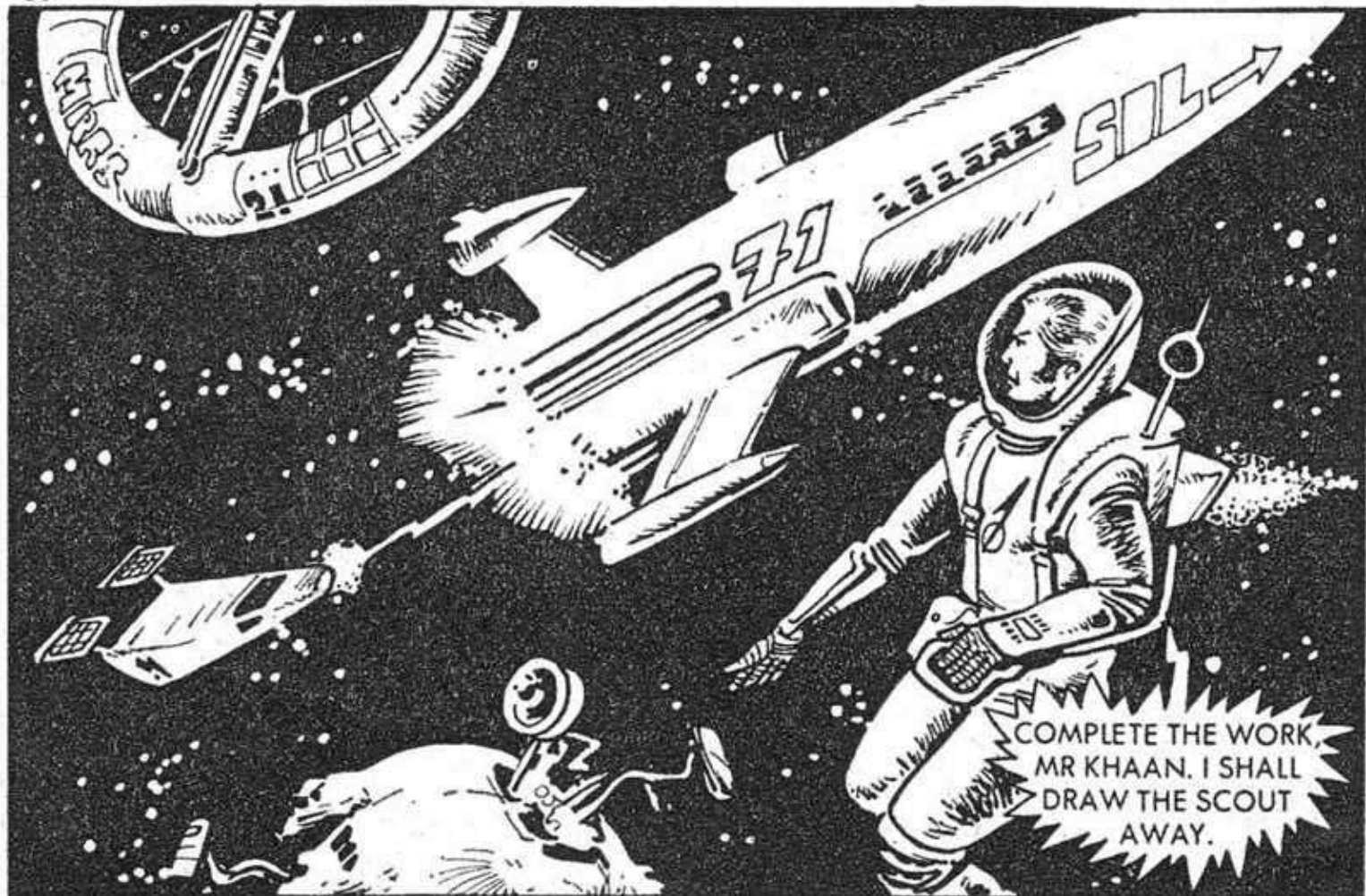
JORGON AND KHAAN SUITED UP, AND LEFT SEEKER.

OUR PROTON GRENADES CAN BE
DETONATED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY
A SINGLE SIGNAL.

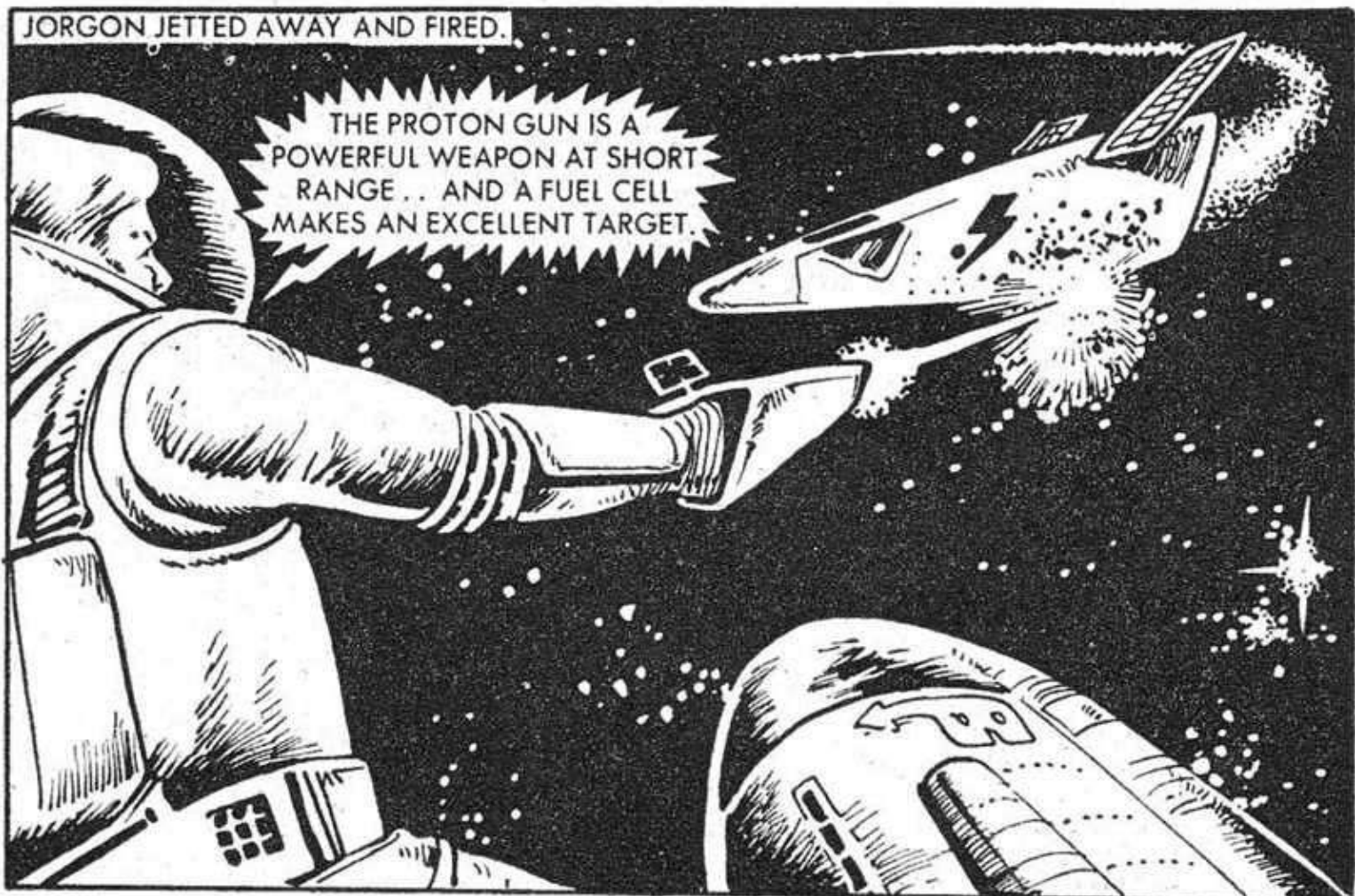
WE MUST WORK
QUICKLY, CAPTAIN.



A CRUTON SCOUT SHIP!
HE'S SEEN US!



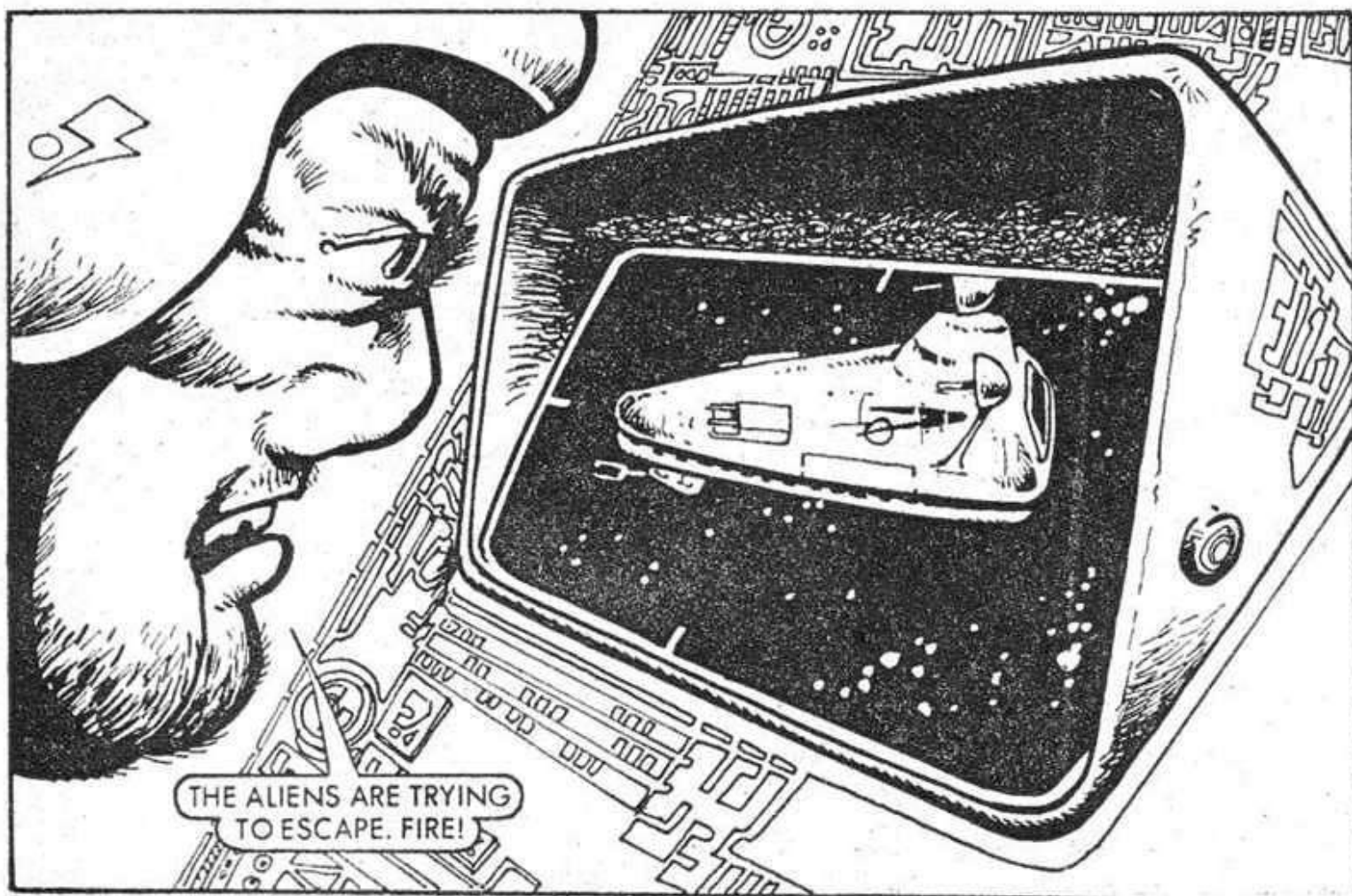
JORGON JETTED AWAY AND FIRED.



WITH THE SCOUTSHIP TAKEN CARE OF, THE TWO SPACERS HEADED BACK TO SEEKER.

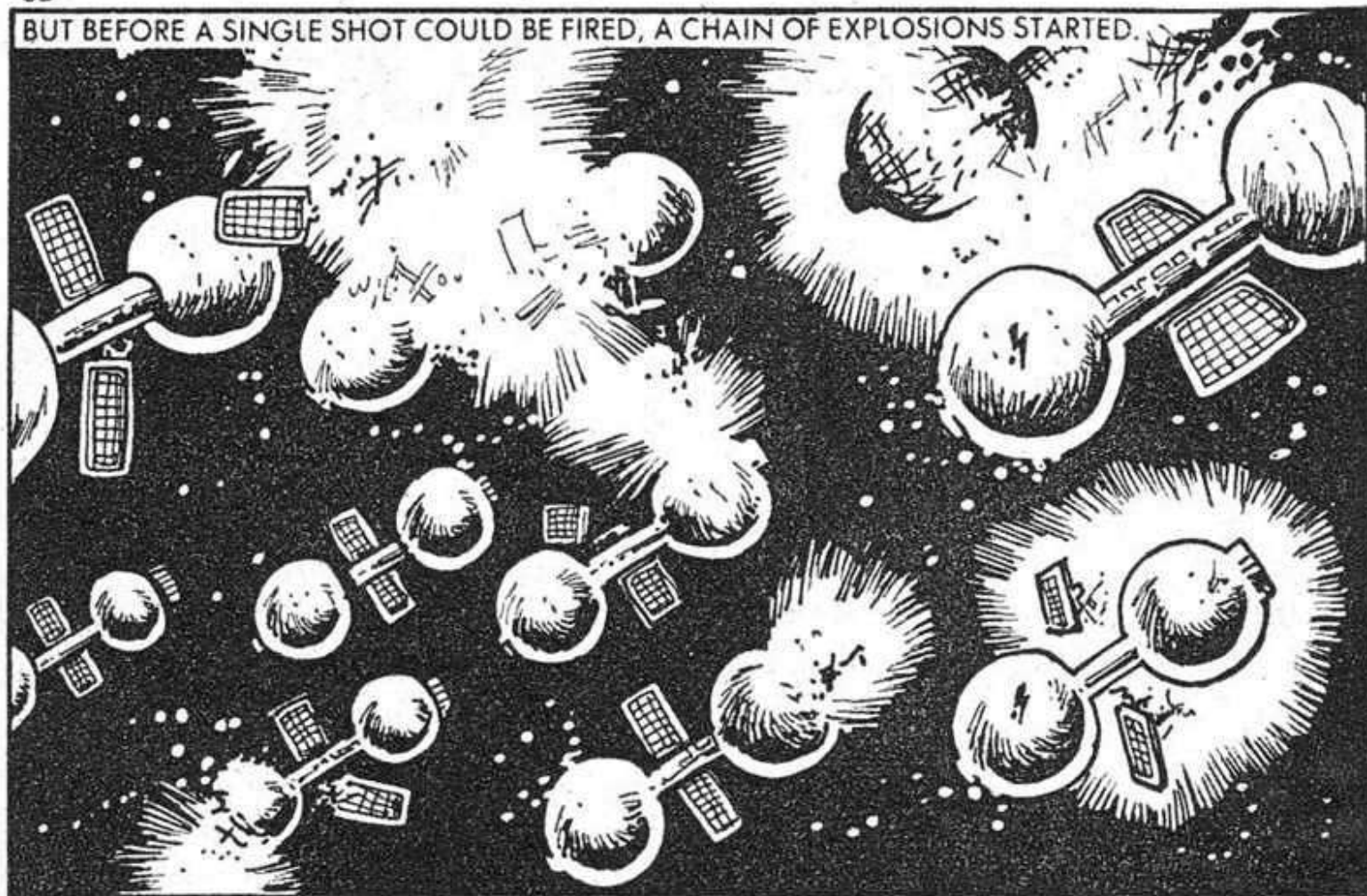
DETONATION IN
THREE MINUTES.

ENGINES! MAKE READY FOR
ACCELERATION LATCH TEN AS
SOON AS WE ARE ABOARD.



THE ALIENS ARE TRYING
TO ESCAPE. FIRE!

BUT BEFORE A SINGLE SHOT COULD BE FIRED, A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS STARTED.

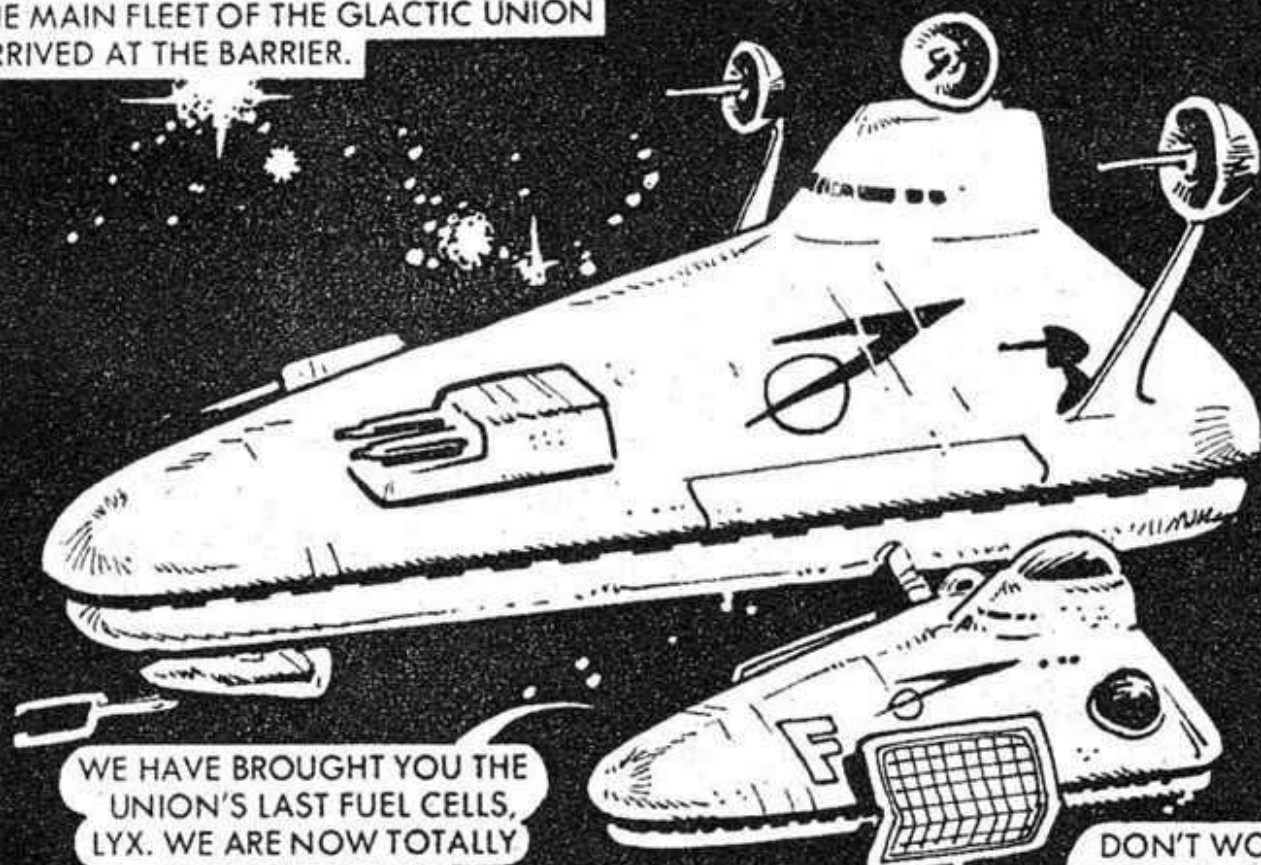


WE HAVE DESTROYED THE FIRST PART OF THE CRUTON INVASION FORCE, BUT THE OTHERS WILL SOON REFORM.

OUR MESSAGE TO H.Q. HAS BEEN ANSWERED. THE UNION FLEET WILL BE WITH US SHORTLY.



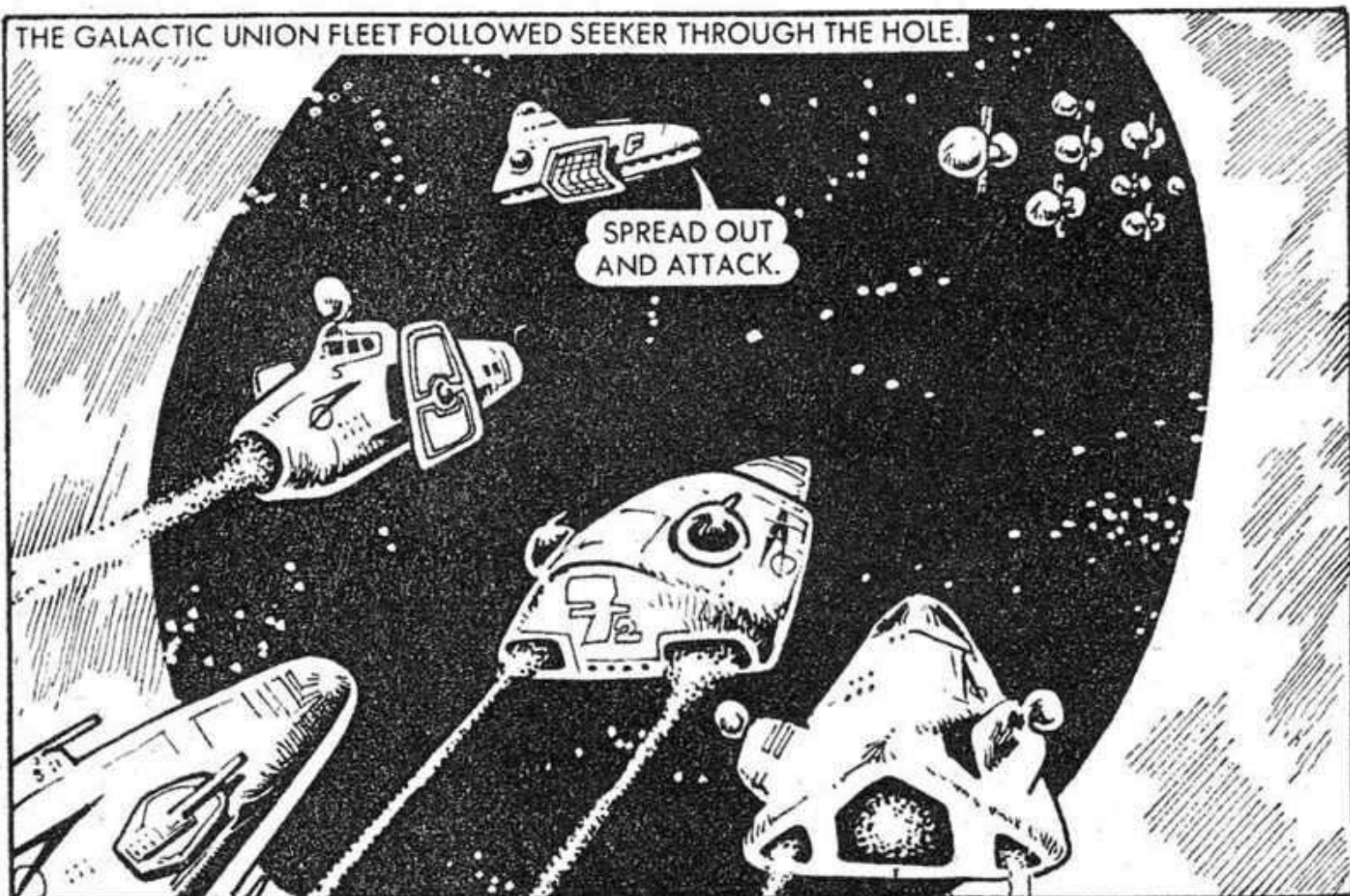
THE MAIN FLEET OF THE GLACTIC UNION
ARRIVED AT THE BARRIER.



WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE
UNION'S LAST FUEL CELLS,
LYX. WE ARE NOW TOTALLY
WITHOUT POWER
RESERVES.

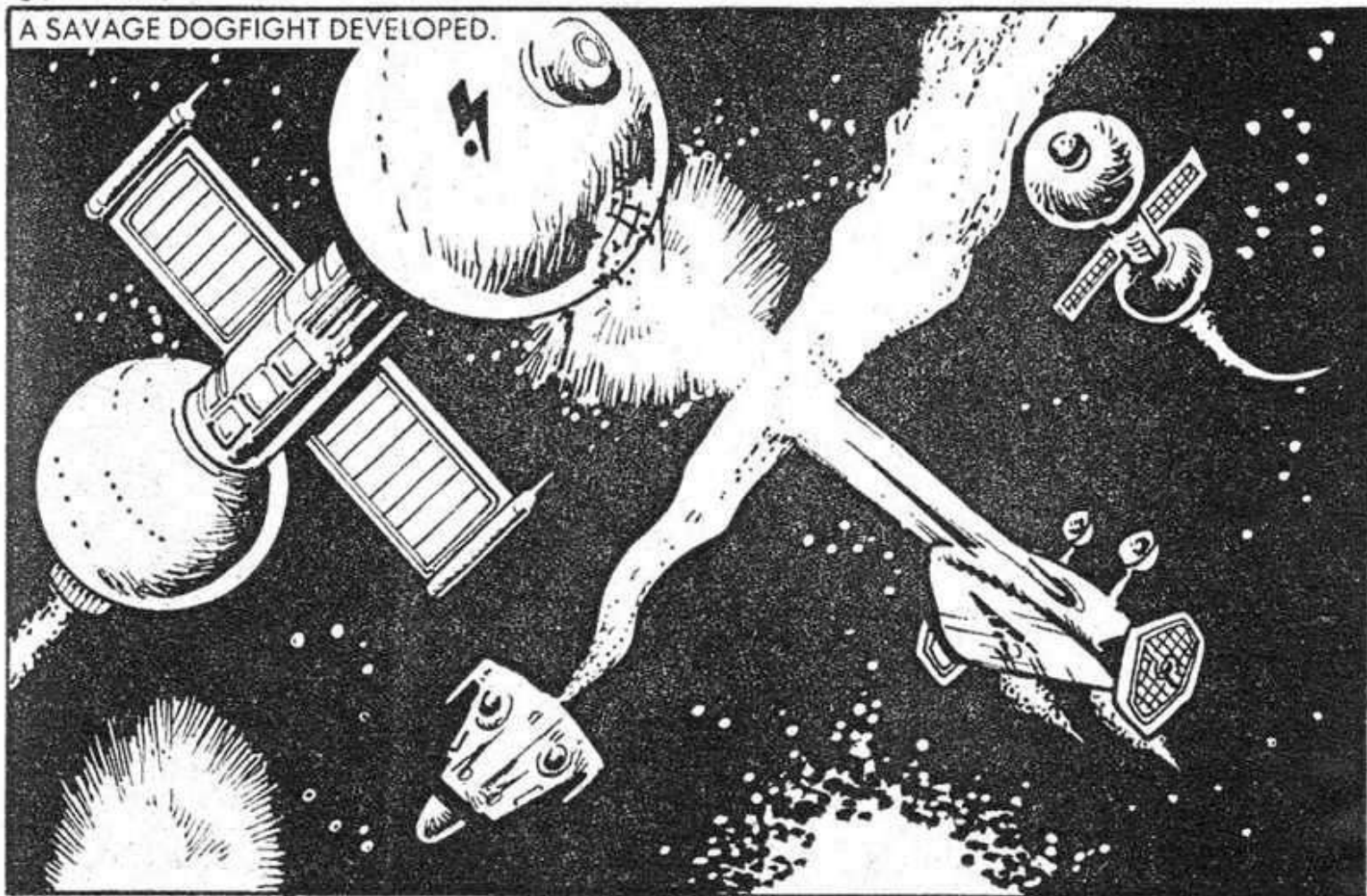
DON'T WORRY! THIS
REFUELLING WILL GIVE
SEEKER THE FIREPOWER TO
DEAL WITH THE CRUTON.

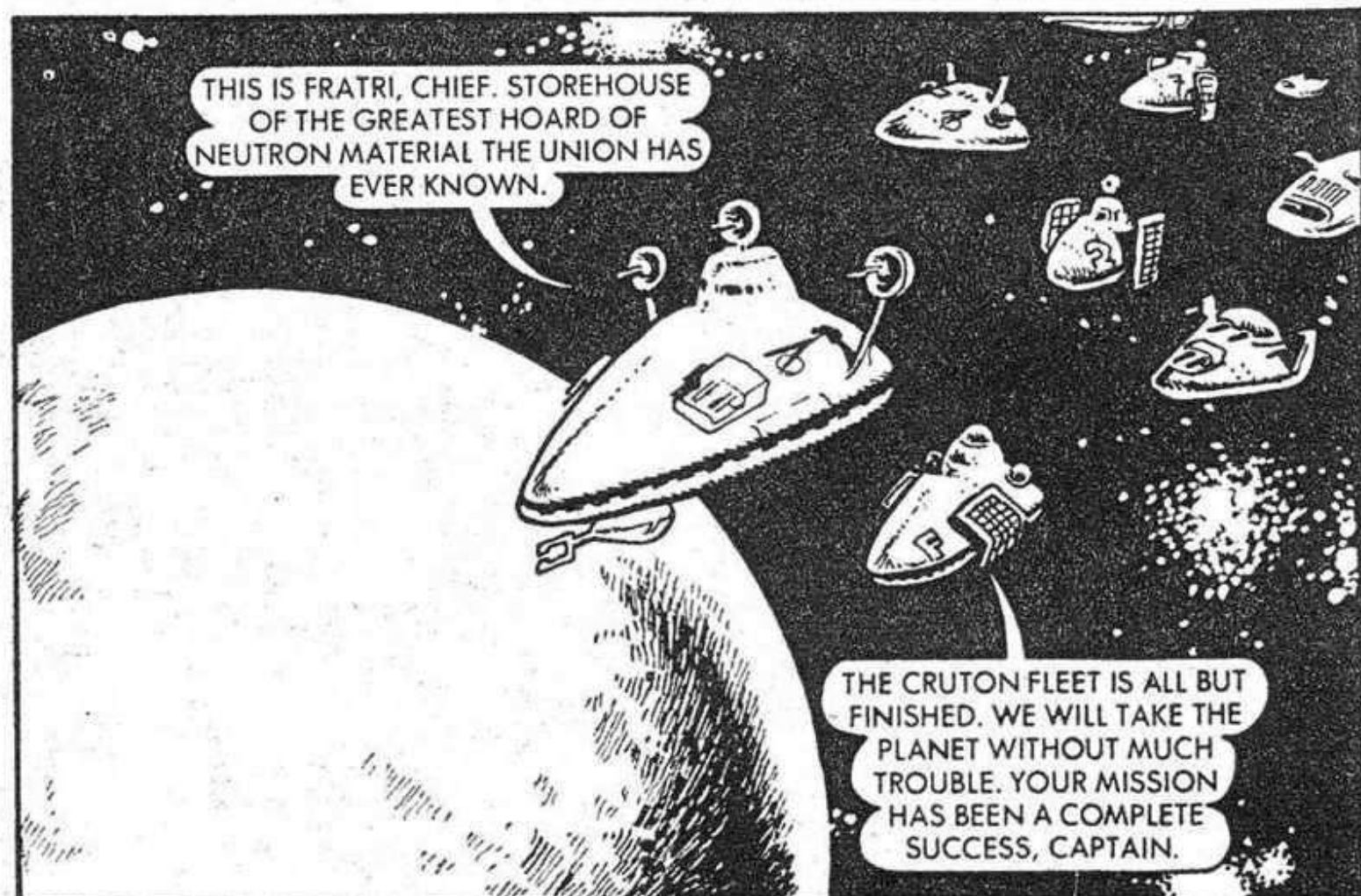
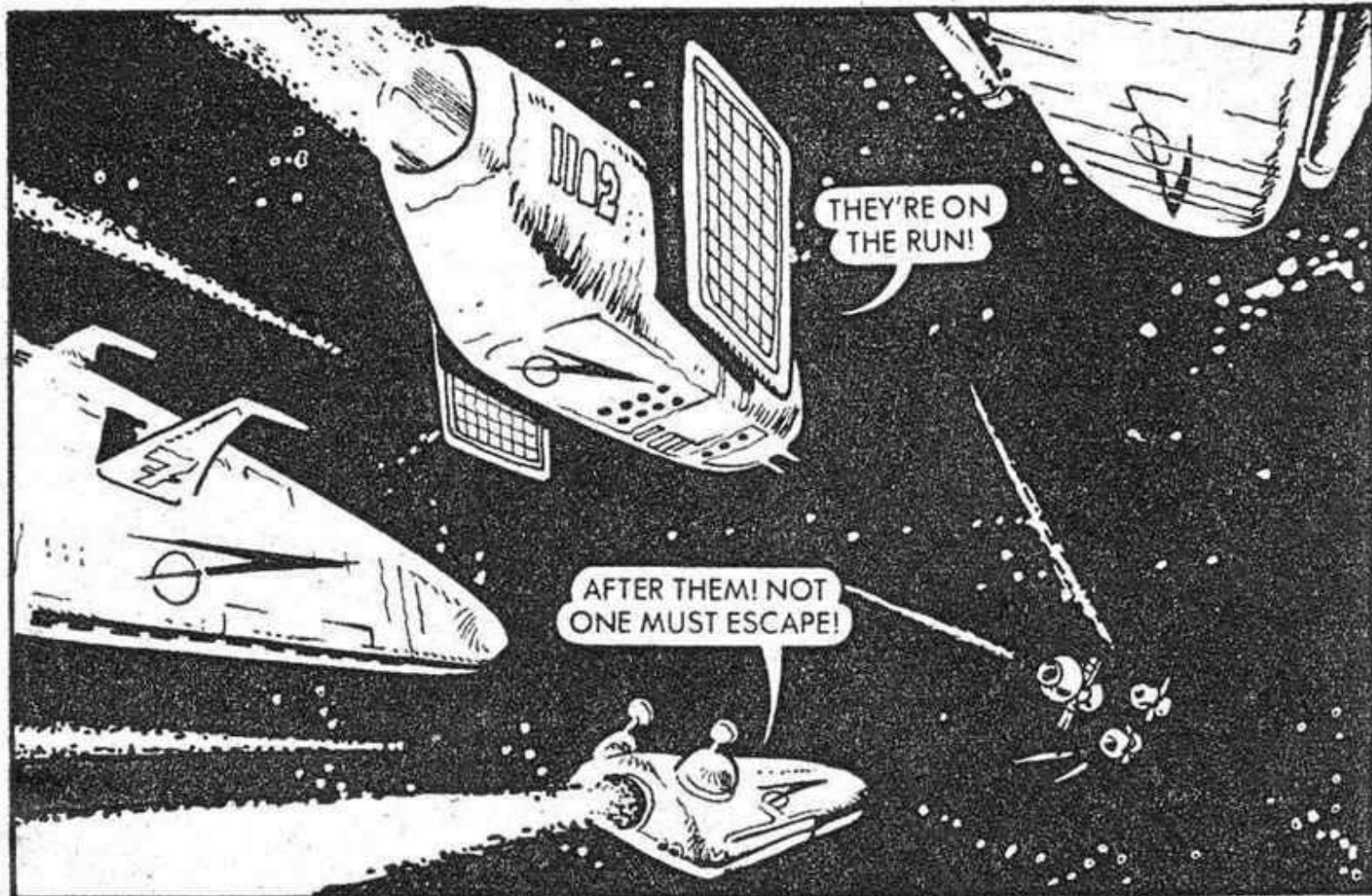
THE GALACTIC UNION FLEET FOLLOWED SEEKER THROUGH THE HOLE.



SPREAD OUT
AND ATTACK.

A SAVAGE DOGFIGHT DEVELOPED.





LYX HELPED TO CLEAR UP POCKETS OF CRUTON RESISTANCE ON FRATRI. WHEN THE FLEET LEFT TO TAKE THE DEFENCELESS CRUTA, HE REJOINED GABON.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR RIDDING OF THE CRUTON SLAVERS, LORDS OF THE BARRIER. WE ARE PROUD TO BECOME THE GALATIC UNION'S NEWEST MEMBERS, AND SUPPLY YOU WITH ALL THE ENERGY YOU NEED.

LEAD YOUR PEOPLE WELL, GABON OF THE FRATRI!!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE GALLANT TRIO WERE HONoured AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY.

THREE MEN HAD SAVED THE GALACTIC UNION FROM EXTINCTION, BUT THERE WERE MORE ALIEN GALAXIES BENT ON CONQUEST...

**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS**



**DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**

STARBLAZERS

**IN THE CONQUEST
OF SPACE (4)**

Until October 1959, the far side of the Moon was a mystery. By a peculiar quirk of nature, the Moon keeps the same side facing the Earth. The Russians launched Lunik 3, shown here, to reveal the far side. The satellite was placed into an orbit round both Earth and Moon. Photos were taken of the far side, developed and processed to show that the far side was cratered and devoid of the dry, flat areas called seas.

